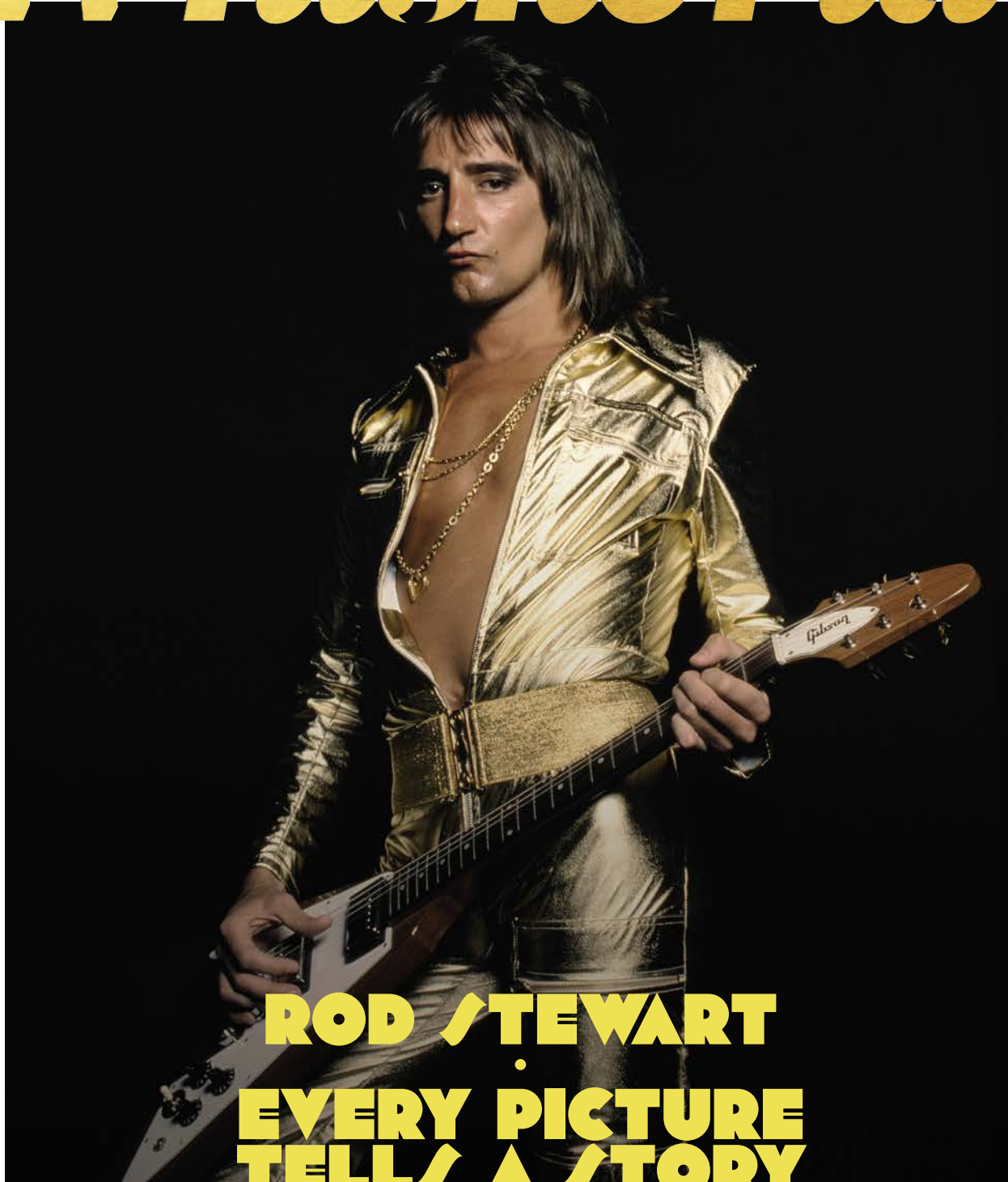


Whiskeria®



ROD STEWART EVERY PICTURE TELLS A STORY



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The Whisky Shop Exclusive:
Rod Stewart celebrates the success of Wolfie's whisky with a look back at his stellar career, in a picture special.

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Distillery Visit: **Lagg**
Mixing It Up: **The Loch Fyne**
Expert Tasting: **The Macallan 30 Year Old**
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THE MAGAZINE OF

**THE
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THE MYSTERY
OF WHISKY

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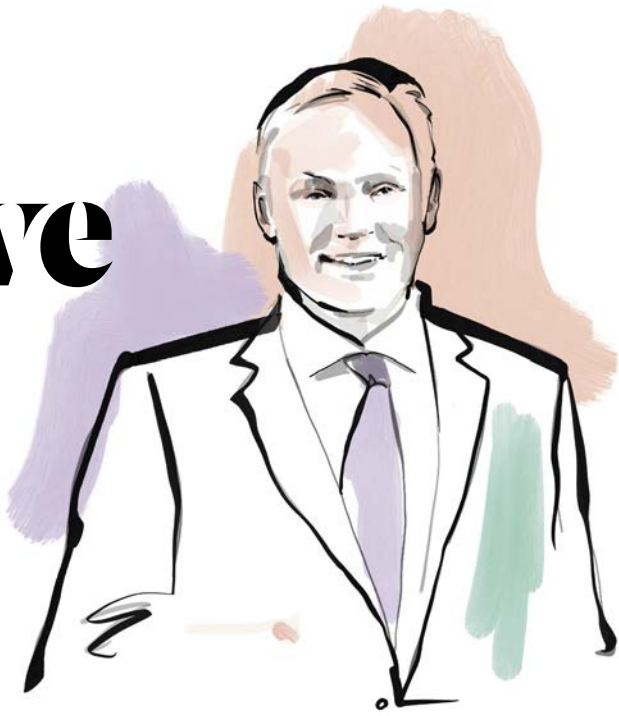
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A global perspective

In our first issue of 2024, The Whisky Shop Chairman Ian P. Bankier examines the cultural differences in drinking habits across the world.



➤ Some years ago, a senior patrician of the drinks industry pointed out to me the peculiarity of the drinking habits of ‘White Anglo Saxons’ versus the rest of the world. He was referring broadly to the peoples of Australia, Germanic Europe, the UK, and North America. It was a generalisation. He claimed that the drinking populations of these nations consume alcohol in large volumes, namely beer and also a lot of wine. On the contrary, the rest of the World consumes much smaller volumes, essentially spirits. In other words, most of the world prefers to drink short. Every time I relate this story it is received with complete surprise because of course we all see things through our own prism.

When I was a lot younger, I was in Kenny’s Bar in Lahinch, Co Clare with my father and his close golfing friend, Malcolm. Malcolm enjoyed a Guinness, but always ordered a half pint at a time. I asked him about this, and his response was that having two half pints was a very different proposition than having a pint. The gorgeous subtlety of this point escaped me at that age, but I recognised that I was receiving a pearl of wisdom and I never forgot it. And in the fullness of time, I realised what he meant. Why would one swallow down gallons of fluid to enjoy a drink? Why indeed?

On my regular visits to France, I notice this different pattern of drinking. For example, when sitting on the terrace for a mid-morning coffee, it is not at all unusual to see at another table a little spirit drink on the side. Nothing extravagant or attention-

seeking—just a little accompaniment if you will. Whilst this is exceptional in the UK, what is not in the least unusual is our pint of beer and the large glass of wine. The French look agog at us serving 250ml of wine (one third of a bottle) in a single glass.

As I see it, the quantity and often speed with which many in the UK consume alcoholic beverages challenges the quest for responsible drinking. I also wonder whether this forms the basis of the guilt complex that haunts the earnest among us who consider they drink too much—but in reality, are not really the problem.

Paradoxically, not a scintilla of guilt or regret visits Rod Stewart, the subject of our cover interview in this issue of Whiskeria. One of the greatest rockers of all time and coincidentally my football buddy, wears on his sleeve his uncompromising love of life and all the elements that give him pleasure. With refreshing honesty, he tells us that the objective of enjoying ‘a wee drink’ is to have fun—and clearly, he has had a lot of fun in his life, most recently creating his new whisky brand “Wolfie’s”. It’s a brand of notable distinction that pays no homage whatsoever to the traditional icons of Scotch whisky. What else would you expect? And by all accounts, there is not a sign of him slowing down. As for me, I find that I drink less not more, drink short not long, and drink quality.

Slainte!

Ian P Bankier, Chairman

THE WHISKY SHOP



I find that I drink less not more, drink short not long, and drink quality.

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Inspired by our Spring Mixing It Up feature, this issue, we're giving readers the chance to get their hands on the goods they need to create this issue's fabulous cocktails at home. This bundle consists of:

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ILLUSTRATION: FRANCESCA WADDELL

Charles MacLean

Whiskeria's resident whisky guru, Charlie has been researching and writing books on the water of life since 1981. Charlie's bestsellers include award-winning *World Whisky and Scotch Whisky: A Liquid History* and his extensive knowledge on the subject led to him becoming the script advisor for Ken Loach's 2012 film *The Angels' Share*. In fact, Charlie's whisky expertise was so hot that he landed himself a part in the film—a feat he claims to be his biggest career highlight to date! Each edition we ask Charlie to try what's new on the shelves of The Whisky Shop, and we're sure you'll agree that his sensational tasting notes never disappoint.



New Releases



9

Brian Wilson

Formerly an MP, Brian held several posts during his political career, including Minister of Trade. Brian now lives on the Isle of Lewis where he pursues various business interests, notably in the energy sector. As chairman of Harris Tweed Hebrides, Brian is credited with leading the regeneration of the Harris Tweed industry. Brian's first love is writing, and in his spare time he continues to write books and opinion pieces for national newspapers—as well as delving into the fascinating history of whisky for each edition of *Whiskeria*.

A Time in History



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Katie Puckrik

Katie Puckrik is a writer, broadcaster and performer. Across her career, she has danced with Pet Shop Boys, presented *The Word* and *Pyjama Party*, and written for *The Evening Standard*, *Elle*, *The Guardian*, *The Sunday Times* and *Interview Magazine*, among others.

After tackling subjects ranging from perfume and yacht rock to entertainment and travel, her nose for the new triggers a phrasemaking frenzy in *Katie Puckrik's Neat Takes*, her punchy column savouring a fresh set of whiskies in every issue.



Neat Takes



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Christina Kernohan

Christina Kernohan is a portrait and lifestyle photographer who has been working with *Whiskeria* for over a decade. Christina has worked for clients such as The Macallan, Isle of Harris Distillers, Bacardi, Rémy Cointreau, The Botanist, and The GlenDronach. A Portrait of Britain Winner in 2023, Christina collaborated with writer Dave Broom on his book, *A Sense Of Place*, where her skill in capturing whisky distilleries, and the people behind them, shone.



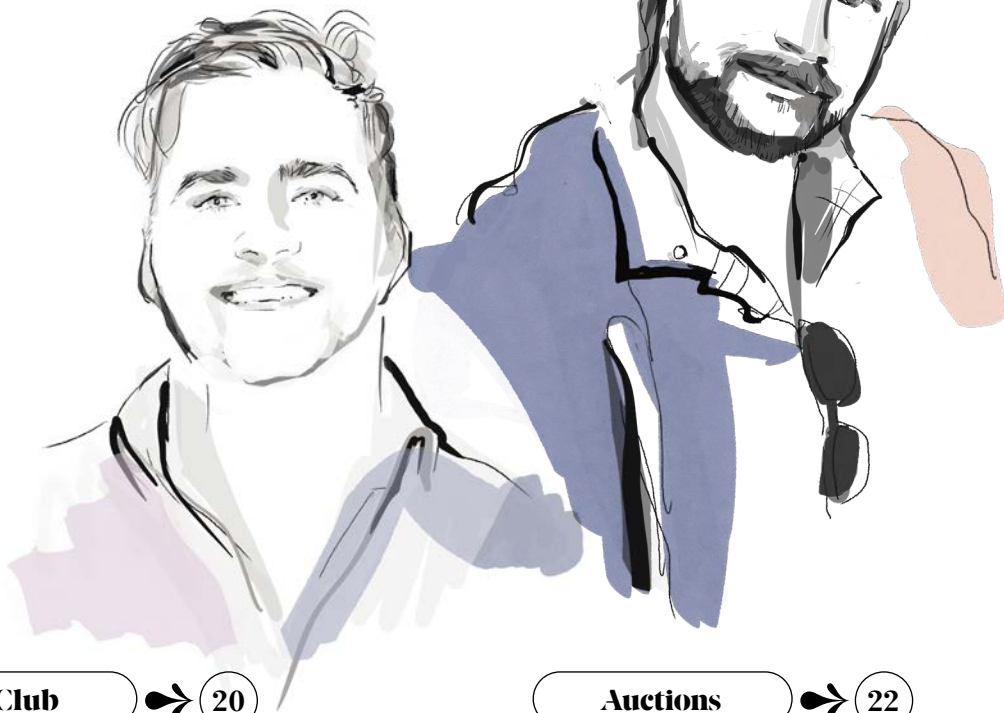
Distillery Visit



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Cristoffer Hällström

Christoffer leads The Whisky Shop Auctions. Having been at the forefront of one of the earliest 'new-age' online whisky auction sites, Christoffer brings knowledge and experience of this relatively new industry. He is an enthusiastic collector and possesses an almost encyclopedic knowledge of auction items and values.



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New Releases/ Spring 2024



Reviewed by
Charles MacLean

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Plantation Barbados 10 Year Old Rum /
GlenAllachie 2011 12 Year Old /
Glengoyne 2004 19 Year Old Single Cask /
Loch Lomond 2013 10 Year Old /
Ardnamurchan AD/ Rum Cask 2023 /
Dalmore Vintage 2005
InchDairnie Sample Room Range Batch 1

ILLUSTRATIONS: HRAFNHILDUR HALLDÓRSDÓTTIR



New Releases

Loch Fyne Fynest Bunnahabhain 2001 21 Year Old

70cl 55.2% VOL

21 Year Old £219

Single cask Islay single malt

Deep amber/polished mahogany; excellent beading. The top note is of pouring caramel, with perhaps an echo of vanilla ice cream beneath it. A very faint maritime note emerges after a while. A smooth texture and a sweet and lightly salty taste, with some white pepper in the finish.



“A smooth texture and a sweet and lightly salty taste, with some white pepper in the finish.”

Bunnahabhain was first bottled as a single malt by its owner, Highland Distilleries, in 1979, although the distillery had been built on the north coast of Islay a hundred years earlier by William Robertson of the Glasgow firm of brokers and blenders, Robertson & Baxter, in partnership with the Greenlees Brothers from Campbeltown.

The location chosen for the distillery was not easy (see also Ardnamurchan, pp. 16), but at least it offered immediate access to the sea, as did the other Islay distilleries (before Kilchoman and Ardnahoe were built). The site had to be levelled; stone quarried for the sizeable distillery buildings, the extensive warehouses and the village which would accommodate the workforce

and excisemen. A strong pier had to be built out into the fast-flowing Sound of Islay, and a mile-long road (some of it up the steep slope, almost a cliff, behind the distillery) was also required to connect the site to the outside world via Islay's single-track roads.

The original spirit was to be used for blending and was only lightly peated—one of the reasons for choosing the remote site was the availability of a fresh-water spring to minimise any peat influence in the process water. Although a small amount of peated spirit has been distilled since 1997 and is now being released annually, this superlative 21-year-old is in the traditional style.

Highland Distilleries successor,

The Edrington Group, unexpectedly sold Bunnahabhain to Burn Stewart Distillers in 2003 which was acquired, together with its distilleries (Tobermory and Deanston, as well as Bunnahabhain) by the Distell Group of South Africa (with CVH Spirits as its operations division), which undertook a £10.5 million refurbishment (including a 'world-class visitor centre') between 2019 and 2022.

Way Down The Mountain 1996 25 Year Old Bourbon

70cl 51.8% VOL

25 Year Old £505

Straight Kentucky Bourbon

Burnished copper colour with orange lights, the initial top curiously ashy, supported by vanilla ice cream and oak shavings, as one would expect in a Bourbon, but more subtle than most. The taste matches the aroma – gentle sweetness, fresh vanilla pod, oak and an ashy/faintly smoky aftertaste.



The taste matches the aroma – gentle sweetness, fresh vanilla pod, oak and an ashy/faintly smoky aftertaste.

Kentucky is the heartland of American whiskey production, but in terms of US whiskey definitions, Bourbon does not have to be distilled in Bourbon County or even in the State of Kentucky. According to legislation, 'Bourbon' must be produced from a mash of not less than 51% corn grain (i.e. maize), and is usually made from between 70% and 90% corn, with some barley malt and rye or wheat in the mash bill.

The difference between bourbon and straight bourbon is that the latter spirit has to be matured for a minimum of two years in new white-oak barrels that have been charred on the inside. If the maturation period is less than four years, then its

age must be stated on the bottle. Some distillers label their brands as 'bottled in bond', which simply means they are over four years old. Most export markets require whiskey (and whisky) to be at least three years old to be named 'whiskey/whisky'.

To be labelled 'straight Bourbon' is that the new-make spirit strength must not exceed 80% ABV. The reason for this is that very high strength alcohol removes many of the flavours in the original fermented mash, and as a result, the spirit has a more neutral, grainy, flavour profile. No artificial colouring or flavouring may be added.

Though the term Bourbon whiskey has been used since the early nineteenth century, it was only by a resolution of

Congress in 1964 that 'Bourbon' was officially defined in terms of its corn/maize content.

The legal definition of 'rye whiskey', 'corn whiskey', 'wheat whisky', and 'Tennessee whiskey' follows that of Bourbon, except that the mashes must contain a minimum of 51% rye/corn/wheat, with malted barley and corn making up the rest of the mash bill in varying proportions. Other 'American whiskeys'—which do not specify a dominant grain—include blended whiskeys, (i.e. blends of straight, grain and 'spirit' whiskeys), and may be artificially coloured and flavoured.

New Releases

Plantation Barbados 10 Year Old Rum

70cl 50.9% VOL

10 Year Old £105

Barbados rum

Amber in hue, with little beading. A mild nose and a scarcely identifiable scent of rum - fresh and fruity, with a suggestion of vanilla toffee. The taste is sweet throughout, with some spice in the finish and a faint rummy aftertaste. Subtle, characterful, and easy drinking.

"Subtle,
characterful,
and easy
drinking."



The story of rum begins in Barbados, where sugar cultivation began in 1627. As Dave Broom writes in his epic book *Rum* (2003): *"Barbados was where English merchants first realised they could make millions out of sugar. It was almost a mythic place, a fantastical, fertile island where fortunes could be made with virtually no effort."*

Rum was being produced by 1642 and demand rapidly soared, initially stimulated by British sailors, who had been provided with rum since 1655 (on account of the drinking water on board ship usually being foul), and by 1733 an official daily rum ration had been introduced in the Royal Navy. In 1740, the distinguished sailor, Admiral Edward Vernon (1684-1757), required

that half a pint of rum per man per day should be issued in two servings, and diluted with water. Vernon's nickname was 'Old Grog', on account of his custom of wearing a boat cloak made from weather-resistant grogan cloth: diluted spirits have been known as 'grog' ever since.

Today there are only three distilleries in operation in Barbados—Mount Gay, Foursquare and West Indies Rum Distillery (W.I.R.D.)—all of which retain pot stills to lend solidity and depth to their creations, alongside column stills for lighter spirits; they also employ innovative fermentations.

Dave Broom concludes his chapter on Barbadian rum as having *"subtle complexity" and "gentle grace"*. The style

of this unusual (unique?) expression of Plantation Rum which has been finished in casks that formerly held 10-year-old Arran single malt perfectly exemplifies this.

GlenAllachie

2011

12 Year Old

The Whisky Shop Exclusive

70cl 61.1% VOL

12 Year Old £170

Speyside single malt

Old Oloroso sherry in colour, with rubious lights. Initially closed, the nose gradually opens to offer dark chocolate and Turkish Delight, deep and mellow. An unctuous texture and a lightly sweet taste, drying to a warming finish, leaving an 80% cacao aftertaste. A splendid digestif.



"A splendid digestif."

GlenAllachie Distillery was commissioned in 1967, designed by William Delmé-Evans, the leading distillery architect of the day who had previously completed Tullibardine (1949), Macduff (1960) and Jura (1963) Distilleries. His design was (and is) very 1960s, with clean, sharp lines, painted white inside and out, with details in black. Trevor Cowan, a former master blender with the company, told me Evans was such a stickler for efficiency that he even marked the lightbulbs with their dates of installation to monitor how long they lasted.

His goal was to design "an up-to-date, gravity-fed distillery" which would be more efficient than traditional sites. He chose the site for Glenallachie on account of its

proximity to Ben Rinnes, the mountain which dominates Speyside, to draw process water from springs on its steep slopes.

William Delmé-Evans died in 2003. His obituary in the Scotsman noted:

"The GlenAllachie Distillery was a whole new concept in whisky distilling. The most modern technology was used, and Delmé-Evans drew on his years of experience in ensuring that the most efficient equipment was installed."

The distillery was mothballed in 1987, and then sold to Campbell Distillers, a subsidiary of Pernod Ricard, two years later. They increased the number of stills from two to four but released only tiny amounts as single malt: the vast majority of its output

went for blending.

This changed dramatically in 2017 when Pernod Ricard sold Glenallachie to Billy Walker, a highly experienced and distinguished distiller who had sold his former company, Glendronach and Benriach Distillers Ltd., to the American distillers, Brown-Forman, the previous year. He realized the potential that GlenAllachie had as a full-bodied single malt and has won numerous prizes since it was launched, including World's Best Single Malt 2021, Visitor Attraction of the Year 2022 and two gold medals (for 12-year-old and 15-year-old) at the World Whiskies Awards 2024 (announced in December 2023).

New Releases

Glengoyne 2004 19 Year Old Single Cask

The Whisky Shop Exclusive

70cl 54.6% VOL

19 Year Old £330

Single cask Highland single malt

Dull gold with tawny lights, good beading, and a mellow nose, dry overall. The first impression is of dried fruits (dates, raisins, sultanas), backed by walnuts. A creamy texture and a lightly sweet taste, with some pepper in the finish and an aftertaste of fondant and milk chocolate.

Dull gold with tawny lights, good beading, and a mellow nose, dry overall.



Until the 1970s Glengoyne was classified as a Lowland malt, although its style is more Highland than Lowland and the distillery itself is just above the Highland Line, although its warehouses are below it, across the busy A891 road. The name was originally spelled 'Glen Guin', 'The Glen of the Wild Geese'.

It is a bonnie site, tucked into a wooded glen, through which runs the Blairgar Burn which supplies both process and cooling water and tumbles into a cooling pond at the top of the site. The burn itself flows from the Campsie Fells which rise above the distillery; a spring in the Campsies provide the water used to reduce the spirit strength to 63.5% ABV prior to filling into cask.

The pond is overlooked by the popular visitor centre—Glengoyne's proximity to Glasgow makes it an attractive tourist destination, and a range of visitor experiences are offered, including a hugely entertaining (and I think unique) masterclass during which you create your own blended malt from different cask styles.

The distillery was commissioned in 1833 by the local laird, Archibald Edmonstone of Duntreath, and leased to various managers until it was bought by Lang Brothers, whisky blenders in Glasgow. They commenced trading from the basement of the Argyll Free Church in Oswald Street, giving rise to the rhyme:

"The spirits below were the spirits of wine and the spirits above were the spirits Divine."

Lang Bros. was bought by Robertson & Baxter in 1965, who then sold it together with Glengoyne Distillery to Ian Macleod & Company, whisky blenders in Broxburn, in 2003. The new owner has revitalized both the site and the brand and went on to buy Tamdhu and Rosebank Distilleries. The latter is expected to reopen this summer.

Loch Lomond 2013 10 Year Old

The Whisky Shop Exclusive

70cl 56% VOL

10 Year Old £68

Single cask Highland single malt

Old gold, implying American oak maturation; moderate beading. A mellow nose-feel, with vanilla fudge top notes, supported by ripe pear and a hint of banana. A creamy texture and a sweet taste, with some spice in the finish. A drop of water introduces a savoury note.



A creamy texture and a sweet taste, with some spice in the finish.

Although it is one of the largest distilleries in Scotland, producing both malt and grain spirits on the same site and is thus able to be self-sufficient as a blender, it was little known until recently, its products being mainly available in export markets.

It has been described as Scotland's most versatile distillery on account of the different styles of spirit—both peated and unpeated—it produces from a baffling range of still-types—two traditional pot stills, four 'Lomond' stills, one traditional Coffey still and one modified Coffey still capable of producing malt spirit.

Lomond stills—the name is coincidental; they were invented at nearby Inverleven

Distillery—replace the 'swan necks' of traditional pot stills with short, straight-necked rectifying columns, capable of producing different styles of spirit. On its website, the distillery explains:

"One of the factors that has a great influence on the character of the spirit produced is the physical length of the neck of the stills. The longer the neck—the lighter (or cleaner) the spirit; the shorter the neck—the more full-bodied (or fatter) the spirit. By using the rectifying heads in a number of different ways, we can replicate the effect of different lengths of 'neck' without physically altering them."

It might be claimed that Loch Lomond Distillers Ltd. emerged from obscurity in

the home market when it was bought by a group of experienced whisky distillers, with the backing of a private equity company in 2014. The new owners invested heavily and then sold the company to Hill House Capital, another global private equity group in 2019.

I do not know what style of still this cask comes from; the spirit is clearly unpeated and I would have thought this well-balanced mature whisky was older than it is.

New Releases

Ardnamurchan AD/ Rum Cask 2023

70cl 55% VOL

NAS £73

Highland single malt

Bright gold, with moderate beading, the top note is maritime, backed by a tropical scent of plantain/banana/charred pineapple, developing into smouldering peat. The taste is sweet overall, with a pinch of salt and some chilli in the warming finish. A classic West Highland style of malt.



"Bright gold, with moderate beading, the top note is maritime, backed by a tropical scent of plantain/banana/charred pineapple, developing into smouldering peat.

*A long peninsula of solid rock
Upholstered every year with threadbare
green...
God was short of earth when he made
Ardnamurchan.*

(Alasdair Maclean, *From the Wilderness*)

Arguably the most remote distillery on mainland Scotland, founded and owned by the highly regarded independent bottler, Adelphi, you might well ask "why build here?"

To answer this, we must consider the history of Adelphi. Once a large distillery in the Gorbals district of Glasgow, established in 1826, by 1880 it was owned by Archibald Walker, who joined the Distillers Company Limited in 1903;

malt distilling ceased soon after and grain distilling in 1932. Ironically, the Glasgow Central Mosque now stands on the site.

Archibald Walker's great-grandson, Jamie, revived the Adelphi name as an independent bottler in 1993 and sold the company to two Argyllshire lairds, Keith Falconer and Donald Houston, ten years later. Keith owned Laudale Estate, Morvern, overlooking Loch Sunart, and Donald owned the Ardnamurchan and Glenborrodale Estates on the other side of the loch. They employed Alex Bruce, a direct descendant on his mother's side of Andrew Usher, 'The Father of Whisky Blending', first as Marketing Director, then Managing Director.

Although remote and accessible only

by a long single-track road, the site at Glenbeg, on Donald's estate, was ideal for a modern distillery concerned with limiting its carbon footprint: electricity is generated by hydropower from an adjacent river and heat by a large biomass boiler, fuelled by wind-fall timber from the estate. Distilling commenced in 2014 and the first spirit was released in 2016 (2,500 bottles which sold out overnight).

The first Ardnamurchan single malt was released in 2020, a 6-year-old—a 50/50% vating of peated and unpeated whisky—and since then there have been several expressions at different strengths and matured or finished in different casks (ex-sherry, ex-madeira) and now for the first time a single malt wholly matured in casks which formerly contained Caribbean rum.

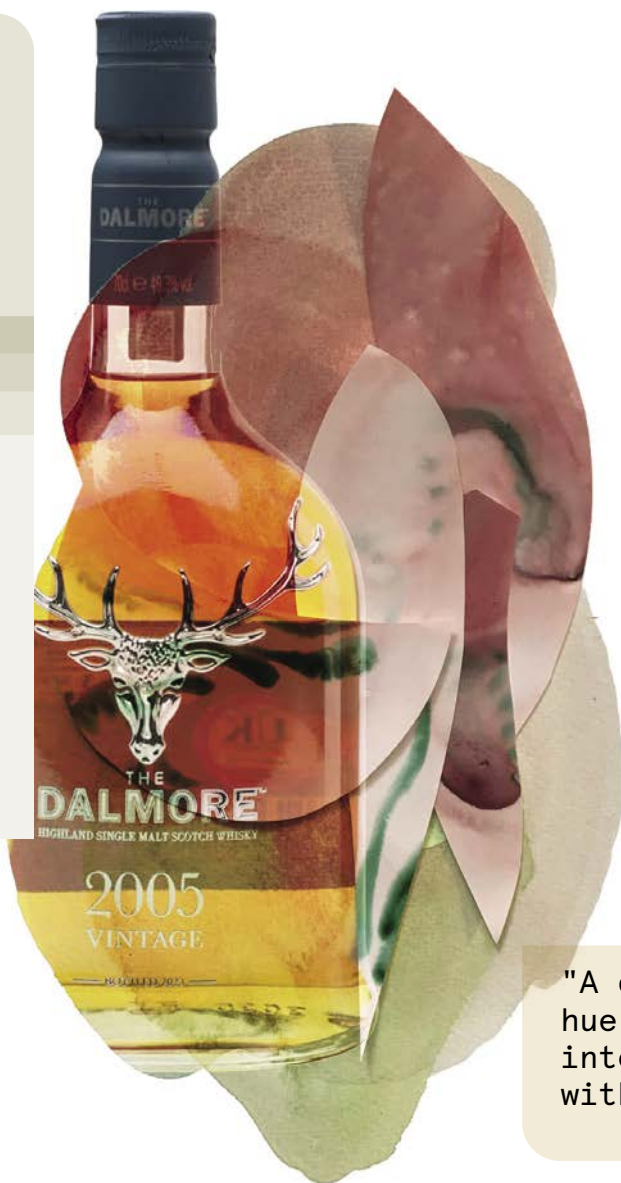
Dalmore Vintage 2005

70cl 49.3% VOL

18 Year Old £380

Single cask Highland single malt

A dusky amber hue and a well-integrated nose, with light prickle. The top notes are initially faintly herbal, backed by caramelised orange peel, powdered ginger and cinnamon, with chocolate notes as the aroma develops. A pleasant texture and a savoury taste overall, with white pepper in the finish at full strength.



"A dusky amber hue and a well-integrated nose, with light prickle."

For some time now, Whyte & Mackay, the owner of Dalmore Distillery at Alness, overlooking the Cromarty Firth, has been releasing a limited edition 18-year-old expression of this rich malt annually. The 2023 release, created by the company's Master Whisky Maker, Gregg Glass, has been matured in American white oak ex-Bourbon barrels and finished in rare 30-year-old Matusalem Oloroso sherry butts from Gonzalez Byass.

Gregg, named Master Distiller/ Master Blender of the Year 2023 in Whisky Magazine's Icons of Whisky Awards, joined Whyte & Mackay in 2016, having previously worked with Compass Box. Like his colleague, the legendary Master Distiller Richard Paterson OBE, Gregg is a wood expert – and arguably the leading

expert on and evangelist for Scottish oak. He describes this year's 18-year-old creation as: "A bold and rich whisky with notes of chocolate-covered raisins, citrus fruits, rich coffee and nutmeg that linger towards a warm fruit-filled finish."

The complex character of Dalmore's new-make spirit is peculiarly well-suited to sherry-wood maturation, and this is down to several unique features in its eight stills — which are claimed to be the oldest in the Highlands, part of one of them dating from 1874.

The four wash stills have flat tops rather than swan necks, which makes for a heavy, musky style, while the four spirit stills are fitted with water jackets around their necks, so the copper is continually cooled, increasing reflux, making for a lighter spirit.

Furthermore, one of the spirit stills is twice as large as the other three and produces a very different style of spirit—citric fruits and aromatic spices. The two styles are mixed before being filled into the cask.

New Releases

InchDairnie Sample Room Range Batch 1 Leven

50cl 59.1% VOL

NAS £59

Fife blended malt

Amber in hue with moderate beading. Mellow with light prickle. The top notes are rounded and faintly reminiscent of Ryvita crispbread, with a trace of vanilla toffee and green sticks. A lightly sweet taste to start, mouth-drying, leads to a lengthy spicy finish.

InchDairnie Sample Room Range Batch 1 Balgonie

50cl 59.1% VOL

NAS £59

Fife blended malt

Deep gold, with moderate beading. A mellow, rounded nose, with no prickle. Butterscotch top-notes are backed by faint oaky notes, with just a whisp of mossy smoke with a drop of water. A fresh, sweet taste, with elegant smoke in the finish.

InchDairnie Sample Room Range Batch 1 Pitkevy

50cl 59.3% VOL

NAS £59

Fife single malt

Deep gold with light beading. A mellow nose with no prickle. Light vanilla fudge top-notes, backed by freshly baked buttered scone, possibly with a smear of spun honey. The texture is lightly teeth-coating and the taste sweet then savoury, with a suggestion of smoke in the aftertaste.

InchDairnie Distillery opened in December 2015 on a substantial greenfield site outside Glenrothes in the Kingdom of Fife. It is the brainchild of Ian Palmer, one of the most experienced distillers in Scotland—former General Manager (Distilling) and Operations Director with Whyte & Mackay, then General Manager of Glen Turner, responsible for the design and construction of Starlaw (grain) Distillery at Bathgate in 2011.

Ian has applied all his knowledge and experience to creating what is probably the most innovative distillery in Scotland, capable of producing both malt and grain whiskies with a view to exploring and enhancing flavour, reducing waste, and saving energy.

Among his innovations are the installation of a hammer mill, capable of pulverising rye as well as barley malt, and a mash conversion vessel rather than the usual mash tun, which forces the mash through twenty-two cloth plates, and makes for very clear worts. Although processing in such a way is common in some breweries, the only distillery to employ it is Teaninich.

The distillery also uses a complex thermal vapour recompression system, with two condensers on each of the two stills. This increases the spirit's copper contact, making for greater purity, and also allows 40%-50% saving on energy costs by recycling the heat to drive the stills. The distillery also has a six-plate Lomond still, at present not connected but which may be used for triple distillation

or as an additional spirit still.

The Sample Room Range comprises three expressions limited to 2000 50cl bottles each. These will be released twice a year, at cask strength, natural colour and without chill-filtration. Each release will *"push the boundaries of whisky flavour"* and will support future 70cl official core-range bottlings.

Batch 1 comprises of Rye Rich Blend (75% rye whisky; 25% malt whisky), Balgonie Blend (75% rye whisky; 25% peated malt whisky), and Pitkevy Lowland single malt (medium peated @ 25ppm phenols). It goes without saying that the component malt and rye whiskies are distilled on site.



"A lightly sweet taste to start, mouth-drying, leads to a lengthy spicy finish.

"A fresh, sweet taste, with elegant smoke in the finish.

"Light vanilla fudge top-notes, backed by freshly baked buttered scone, possibly with a smear of spun honey.

! INCHDAIRNIE DISTILLERY		
SAMPLE ROOM RANGE		
DUTY PAID SAMPLE		
IN CASK: DEC 2017	DRAWN BY: SCOTT SNEEDON	DRAWN DATE: FEB 2024
CASK TYPE: ANONTILLADO & NEW OAK	RELEASE BATCH: 001 2024	BOTTLE NO.: 1 OF 390
MAKE: LEVEN		
BLENDED SCOTCH WHISKY		
SINGLE DISTILLERY RYE RICH		
PHENOLS: 15 PPM	ESTERS: 2980	NATURAL COLOUR: NON CHILL-FILTERED
SIZE: 50cl e	STRENGTH: 59.1% vol.	
<small>INCHDAIRNIE DISTILLERY, WHITECRAIGS RD, FIFE, KY6 3BK, SCOTLAND</small>		

! INCHDAIRNIE DISTILLERY		
SAMPLE ROOM RANGE		
DUTY PAID SAMPLE		
IN CASK: DEC 2017	DRAWN BY: SCOTT SNEEDON	DRAWN DATE: FEB 2024
CASK TYPE: NEW OAK & REFILL	RELEASE BATCH: 001 2024	BOTTLE NO.: 1 OF 390
MAKE: BALGONIE		
BLENDED SCOTCH WHISKY		
SINGLE DISTILLERY SMOKE & RYE		
PHENOLS: 7.0 PPM	ESTERS: 195.4	NATURAL COLOUR: NON CHILL-FILTERED
SIZE: 50cl e	STRENGTH: 59.1% vol.	
<small>INCHDAIRNIE DISTILLERY, WHITECRAIGS RD, FIFE, KY6 3BK, SCOTLAND</small>		

! INCHDAIRNIE DISTILLERY		
SAMPLE ROOM RANGE		
DUTY PAID SAMPLE		
IN CASK: JAN 2017	DRAWN BY: SCOTT SNEEDON	DRAWN DATE: FEB 2024
CASK TYPE: PAID CORTADO & REFILLS	RELEASE BATCH: 001 2024	BOTTLE NO.: 1 OF 390
MAKE: PITKEVY		
SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY		
SINGLE DISTILLERY FETTERED		
PHENOLS: 5.8 PPM	ESTERS: 1.7	NATURAL COLOUR: NON CHILL-FILTERED
SIZE: 50cl e	STRENGTH: 59.1% vol.	
<small>INCHDAIRNIE DISTILLERY, WHITECRAIGS RD, FIFE, KY6 3BK, SCOTLAND</small>		

Club together!



W Club Manager, Luke Crowley-Holland, reflects on the many highs of 2023 and looks to what we have in store for our members in the coming year.



Whisky production relies on countless factors. Concurrently with this issue of Whiskeria landing at W Club Member's front doors, Scottish farmers will be preparing their fields to sow their Spring barley. By the time this barley is harvested at the end of the summer, malted, distilled, casked and then nestled away for a period of maturation, we're looking at a minimum of 4 years before it is legally going to be consumed by anyone in the form of 'whisky'. And it'll be far longer than that before it ends up in a bottle that you'll be purchasing from The Whisky Shop.

The length of time involved in the production of this country's finest export is part of what gives it its mystique. It almost forces one to contemplate the longevity of it all; and I mean 'all' in both a literal and existential sense. There was once a time where production volumes of the spirit that we would now call whisky was driven by the need for grain preservation, in years where harvests yielded surpluses. Today, distilleries operation on ten-, twenty-, thirty- and forty-year projections of what demand the market will provide, in terms of overall volume and niche consumer trends.

Within all this sits a beautiful tension: a juxtaposition between tradition and efficiency, consistency and innovation. Yet nothing can remain static: we discussed on a recent **Digital Drams** event with our W Club members the

flaws in that notion. For no matter how much brands try to maintain consistency in flavour profile and appearance each time they produce a batch of their signature malt or blend, on some level they know they are striving for the impossible. There might be almost no tangible difference year to year, but if you're lucky enough to try a bottle of your favourite whisky that was produced in the 1980s or 1990s vs the one you purchased recently—say in our **Whisky Wednesday** deals—more times than not, one is almost unrecognisable from the other. Not to mention the bottle shape and label has probably changed multiple times in the intervening years. But that doesn't stop it being the brand you've loved all this time.

Similarly, since the disruption brought about by the pandemic, a lot has changed in the world of retail, and obviously whisky specialist retailers are not exempt from this! Much like the farmers tilling the ground to prepare it for the spring barley, we at both The Whisky Shop and the W Club, are laying the ground for the future, while striving to remain true to, and consistent with, what we do best.

Last year, The Whisky Shop opened a new shop in Leeds, which brought some more fine folk in from Yorkshire to join the W Club; just as the opening of our first Welsh shop had done the previous year. Is this innovation or a commitment to our consistent beliefs and



2023 was a very exciting year for The W Club as exemplified by this tension between consistency and innovation. The former saw us delivering weekly ballots, regular priority access, consistent Digital Drams events and in-store W Club tastings.

aspirations as an independent British business?

2023 was a very exciting year for The W Club as exemplified by this tension between consistency and innovation. The former saw us delivering weekly ballots, regular priority access, consistent Digital Drams events and in-store W Club tastings. We also launched our first ever W Club Members' Choice Awards, with Loch Lomond 14-Year-Old taking home the inaugural prize! And, equally as exciting, we gave all our current and new members unlimited free shipping from The Whisky Shop online, without adding a penny to the price of membership.

This year we want to continue to do more for our most valued customers—those being W Club members of course! Obviously, we will be continuing to provide our members with weekly (and sometimes twice or thrice weekly) W Club Ballots, Priority Access, Whisky Wednesday Deals, online and in-store Members-Only Deals, W Club Members in-person tastings, Digital Drams Virtual Tasting and Partner Offers. But we will also maintain our commenting to innovation, just like all the great Scottish Whisky producers.

We are also very excited to announce that **free shipping for W Club members** will be here to stay for the foreseeable! This is a fantastic addition to your £30 a year subscription. And one which our members availed of thousands of times since we launched it at the end of Spring last year. And here's hoping that you reading



Knowledge Bar
The W Club



By joining the W Club, you will receive a subscription to this very magazine. Have every issue of Whiskeria delivered directly to your doorstep.

Sign up to The W Club by scanning the QR code:



If you're already part of the club, visit our Members Hub here to keep up to date all things W Club:



this, as a current or future W Club member, will get to avail of it many more times this year.

The W Club Members' Choice Awards will be returning for 2024. We were moved by the success of this last year. The support it received from both our W Club members and the brands who entered was tremendous. Over 30 blind tastings were conducted with W Club members at Whisky Shop locations spanning the width and breadth of the country last year to decide our overall winner. For 2024 we will be striving to get even more members involved in these samplings. If you to see the results again you can do by visiting the W Club Awards page on our Members Hub.

I'm confident that, compared to anything else operating in the whisky space today, The W Club offers incredible value and enjoyment to The Whisky Shop's most valued clientele. Having said that, don't think for a second that we are pulling up any laurels for us to rest on. Au contraire! Instead, we will be preparing for the rest of Spring for a very exciting announcement in the next issue. Watch this space.

Tá súil agam nach rithfidh ach an t-ádh leat i mbliana! Mise le meas (I wish you luck this year),

Luke Crowley Holland,
W Club Manager

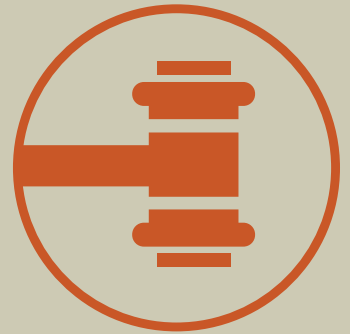


Auctions



Lots of bottle

The Whisky Shop Auctions Manager, Christoffer Hällström, reflects on on a huge year for TWSA — still the only place to buy, sell and explore the excitement of whisky Auctions.



2023: OUR BIGGEST YEAR YET



3X LARGER WAREHOUSE CAPACITY



OUR AUCTIONS TEAM HAS DOUBLED IN SIZE



WE CAN NOW PICK-UP AND DROP OFF



WE NOW DELIVER TO 27 US STATES



20,000 LOTS SOLD

GOLDEN OLDIES

Well-aged drams presented in some of the most beautiful bottles you'll ever see!

Highland Park 40 Year Old (£5,000)

Sold through Auctions in May 2023, this Highland Park expression was filled into oak casks in 1958 to mature for forty years before 665 bottles were produced in 1998. The bottle was encased in an elegant wooden presentation box alongside a beautiful Highland Park branded decanter and stopper.

Brora 1972 22 Year Old Rare Malts (£4,800)

A sleek bottling of Brora from the Rare Malts Selection series. This dram matured in oak casks for 22 years before being bottled and eventually ending up in our warehouse!

Bowmore Bicentenary 1779 (£2,300)

A delightfully wonky looking bottle from Bowmore, released to celebrate the distillery's 200th anniversary in 1979. This expression is a vatting of whisky of various ages that were produced in the 1950s and 1960s and was matured exclusively in the famous No.1 Vault in both sherry and American oak casks.



Harris Hearach The 1,916 1st Release Batch #1 & Book (£1,550)

One of 2023's most highly sought after bottles! Distilled at the Isle of Harris distillery, this bottling was the distillery's first whisky release. One of 1,916 bottles in tribute to the 1,916 residents on the Isle of Harris. On top of the bottle, this lot came with a The 1,916 Membership card and book.

Chichibu 2014 7 Year Old Single Cask #3876 Glover Collection—Japanese Fes 2022 (£1,250)

Hailing from one of Japan's youngest distilleries, Chichibu (founded in 2004), this expression is part of a trio of Japanese whiskies released as part of the Glover collection for the Japanese Whisky Festival 2022. With just 215 bottles produced, this was an extremely exciting bottle to see pass through our doors.

UP & COMING!

Bottlings from young, up-and-coming distilleries were exceptionally popular in 2023 and we don't expect that to change in 2024!

RARE BOTTLEINGS

Last year, we saw some real rare beauties you don't often see at auctions come through our doors. Some of our favourite ultra-unique lots were:

Pappy Van Winkle 15 Year Old Family Reserve - Cobden Club (£6,200)

This limited edition well-aged Pappy Van Winkle's Family Reserve was a private barrel bottling from London's private members Cobden Club. This expression is a private barrel bottling for the now-closed Cobden Club gentleman's club in London.

Clynelish 1965 29 Year Old Single Cask #667 Signatory Vintage (£2,900)

Distilled at the Clynelish and independently bottled by Signatory. This expression was distilled in 1965 and laid down to mature in a sherry cask for almost three decades before just 530 bottles were filled—one of which ended up in our warehouse!

Glenloch 1965 32 Year Old Single Cask #1528 Signatory Vintage Silent Stills Gift Pack (£2,600)

Distilled at the now-closed Glenloch, this is another rare independent bottling from Signatory as part of their Silent Stills series. Just 210 bottles were filled and were presented in a gift pack with a 5cl miniature and a woodcut coaster.



HIGHEST SELLING BOTTLES

We saw some incredible, eyebrow raising sales last year. Our highest selling lots were:

£20,000

Bowmore 1967 12 Year Old

A rare Bowmore bottling featuring a unique handwritten label that was produced as Largiemeanoch and was created for the Howgate Wine Co., Edinburgh. Distilled in 1967, the spirit was then laid down to mature in sherry oak for over 12 years.

£17,000

The Macallan James Bond 60th Anniversary Release Decades I-VI Globe Trotter

The complete set of The Macallan's James Bond 60th Anniversary series which was released in 2022. Each bottle features artwork which represents the Bond films of the decade. This set comes with a Globe Trotter presentation suitcase—one of only 300 produced.

£12,500

The Macallan Distil Your World New York

A limited-edition release from The Macallan that celebrates New York. Crafted with the help of the Roca brothers (former Whiskeria cover stars!), this Speyside single malt has been drawn from six specially selected casks using a combination of European and American oak. The bottle is encased in a stunning presentation box that comes with a book which documents the inspirations behind the expression.

IT'S NOT JUST SCOTCH!

With both English and Welsh whisky booming in popularity, it's no surprise that bottlings from distilleries like The Lakes and Penderyn were huge hits at Auction last year!

Penderyn Icons of Wales No 5. Bryn Terfel (£1,900)

One of our favourite lots of last year! Distilled in Wales at Penderyn distillery, this release forms part of their Icons of Wales series and celebrates the work of Opera Singer Bryn Terfel CBE, in particular his interpretation of the role of Sir John Falstaff in Verdi's comic opera.

The Lakes Distillery The Whiskymaker's Reserve No.1 Cask Strength (£1,200)

Distilled at The Lakes Distillery in Cumbria, this limited edition expression has been matured for an undisclosed period of time in a combination of American, Spanish & French oak casks—using predominately Pedro Ximenez and red wine casks.



If you have an interesting bottle at home that you'd like to auction, we'll pick it up from your doorstep, free of charge! Email auctions@whiskyshop.com to find out when your dram can be collected.



Where the wild things are



Hidden in Scotland's Highlands, The Cabrach is a treasure trove of whisky history waiting to be uncovered. Brian Wilson sets the scene in advance of the distillery's first official release, The Feering.



Two centuries ago, this isolated parish which straddled the old Aberdeenshire and Banff county lines, was the epicentre of illicit distilling.

Knowledge Bar

The Cabrach



THE CABRACH

HUNTLY, AB54 4EU

Nestled in rural Moray, The Cabrach has been founded by The Cabrach Trust to celebrate the cultural heritage of the area and will embrace manufacturing techniques which date back to the 1800s in tribute to the area's monumental history of whisky distilling. Building is currently underway, and the distillery will soon be open to visitors. Watch this space...

➔ New distilleries are springing up around Scotland, each with its own distinctive story to tell. Usually, some narrative can be contrived, with a little creativity, which links the place to a whisky-making tradition.

The new Cabrach distillery's back story will certainly not need any embroidery. Two centuries ago, this isolated parish which straddled the old Aberdeenshire and Banff county lines, was the epicentre of illicit distilling. Its Jacobite past gave way to a general resistance to authority. By the 1830s, it was among the last outposts to withstand the exciseman's drive for legality and revenues.

Thereafter, the Cabrach's story has been of continuing decline. Even by the turn of the 20th century, a thousand people were still living there. Today, there are about 70, spread over 20,000 acres. That is the backdrop to why the Cabrach Distillery has come into existence, the history it draws upon and the ethos it will serve.

Under the auspices of The Cabrach Trust, it will operate as a Community Interest Company with all the profits ploughed back into further community regeneration. The aims are to slowly increase population, provide amenities and housing, while encouraging thousands of visitors, who currently hurry through an empty landscape, to stop and learn more.

Later this year, the Distillery will begin production alongside a heritage centre. Their home is in restored farm buildings amidst 170 acres of land which will be used to grow the distillery's own barley. The distilling process will "reflect manufacturing techniques from the early 1800s as part of the unique visitor experience".

Jonathan Christie, Chief Executive of

The Cabrach Trust, describes it as "a distillery with a social purpose—not only does it have real heritage behind it, but it will also act as the engine-room for community regeneration". And from the outset, it will have a very special whisky to sell—which is where The Feering makes its appearance. In north-east agricultural terminology, 'feering' means the first furrow ploughed, setting a guide for all the rest and Jonathan describes the liquid Feering as "the starting point of our whisky and regeneration journey".

Like all new distilleries, The Cabrach faced the challenge of cash flow until the whisky matures to the point at which it can be marketed. However, The Cabrach Trust is in the fortunate position of having the goodwill of the Speyside whisky industry behind it. In a rare gesture, the big players have come together to support production of The Feering, by contributing whiskies which will go towards a series of three very special blends.

Jonathan explains: "The chief architect in terms of the blending is Alan Winchester, formerly the Master Distiller from The Glenlivet. The first release of The Feering has been blended from four Speyside whiskies, though these will not be identified. I suppose for the real connoisseurs, the challenge will be to work it out for themselves!"

"It is a completely unique concept which will contribute to the cash flow and also allow people to be part of The Cabrach distillery story from the very start. There will be three editions of The Feering, each of 6,000 bottles. The first is called Early Harvest, enabled by the generosity of the distilleries that surround the Cabrach."

These giants of the industry have nothing to fear from The Cabrach Distillery's proposed 100,000 litres a year of production and perhaps the neighbouring Speyside



Top: Grant Gordon OBE (Founder & Chair, The Cabrach Trust), Alan Winchester (Master of Malt, The Cabrach Distillery)

industry feels a debt of honour to a place which was identified so closely with early whisky production, then fell victim to its post-legalisation boom.

Following the Excise Act in 1823, three Cabrach farms gained licences—Tomnaven, Lesmurdie, and Blackmiddens, renamed The Buck after a local hill. But all had gone by 1851 while neighbouring Speyside flourished.

Wild isolation, hostile to the exciseman's curiosity, had made The Cabrach well-suited to widespread illicit distilling—“*that unique and once whisky-infested plateau*”, as Derek Cooper described it in *The Whisky Roads of Scotland*. However, the same factors of climate and terrain worked against it once distilling became a legitimate commercial enterprise.

It was not in the inhospitable countryside that capital existed, or investment occurred but in nearby towns like Dufftown and Huntly. With whisky distilling gone, life became even tougher for those who subsisted in The Cabrach. Its past is still testified to by ruined houses, dykes that delineated smallholdings, a parish church built to seat hundreds. Then the crofts gave way to farms and the farms gave way to sporting estates and the people were almost gone.

Most of Scotland knew little or nothing about The Cabrach or its silent, continuing decline. Then out of the darkness came hope. There were enough people left with an interest in the place to recognise that there was too much of value about The Cabrach for it simply to be consigned, lifeless, to history. In 2013, The Cabrach Trust was formed.

The driving force behind it was Grant Gordon whose family connections with both the whisky industry and The Cabrach ran deep. His grandfather, Charles Gordon, married the daughter of William Grant, who

is credited with having turned Glenfiddich into a global brand.

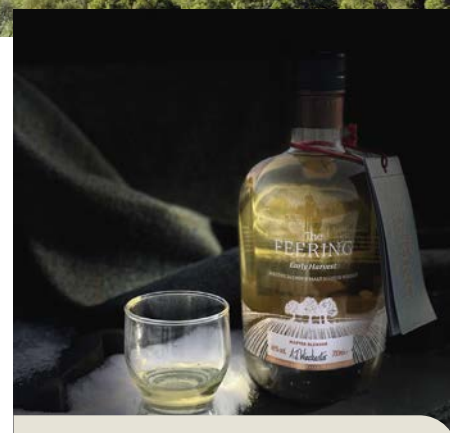
Grant Gordon had spent part of each year in The Cabrach since childhood and knew all about its place in whisky lore as well as its ongoing decline. If there was to be a regeneration kickstart, the obvious starting point was The Cabrach's whisky history as told through a heritage centre and brought up to date with a working distillery. That became the priority project for the Trust.

A critical step forward came in 2013 when Grant Gordon succeeded in buying Inverharroch Farm which became the location for the Trust's distillery ambitions. Private philanthropy through the whisky connections kicked in, though the project took time to develop before Covid put plans on hold.

Then in 2021, the £3.5 million package was completed when the US-based Bently Foundation announced a “*monumental £1 million grant to ensure that the Cabrach Distillery becomes a reality in the very near future*”. The stills are being built by the famed Forsyth coppersmiths' workshop, near Rothes, who pitched in £500,000. Renovation work at Inverharroch began in 2022 and is nearing completion.

For those who want to know more about the chequered history of The Cabrach, there is a book first published in 1920 by the Banffshire Journal and called, of course, The Cabrach Feerings. Its foreword concluded with its own literary metaphor: “*The ploughing of the field of The Cabrach is only begun in the present volume but may this 'feering' guide to a satisfactory 'finishing'.*”

That same hope can now be applied with confidence to the aims of The Cabrach Trust and its efforts to both recall and reverse the course of history. The Feering is just the start



The Feering Early Harvest

Alan's Tasting Notes

70cl 46% VOL
NAS

Speyside blended malt whisky

Colour: Early evening sun on a field of barley captured elegantly in every bottle of The Feering Early Harvest.

Nose: Gentle floral, heathery tones and notes of honey combine with the distant hint of dying embers on a bothy hearth.

Palate: The nose continues in the palate. Fresh butterscotch combines with sweet vanilla and heather. The hint of sweet smoke continues, subtle in the background.

Finish: The finish is clean and fresh, leaving just enough to tempt you back for another taste.

Independent spirit

To celebrate The GlenAllachie's striking new rebrand, we catch up with Master Distiller and industry legend, Billy Walker, to discuss his time with the distillery and what he sees for the future of whisky production.

Knowledge Bar

Billy Walker



1967: Billy receives a BSc Hons in Chemistry from The University of Glasgow.

1972: Billy begins working at Hiram Walker & Sons.

1976: Billy starts a new role as Master Blender at Inver House Distillers.

1982: Billy starts working for Burn Stewart Distillers.

2017: Billy purchases The GlenAllachie Distillery with Trisha Savage and Graham Stevenson after coming together to form The GlenAllachie Distillers Company Ltd.

2021: Billy is inducted into Whisky Magazine's Hall of Fame.

➔ When we think of The GlenAllachie, we think of the industry giant that is Billy Walker. With over 50 years of experience of working in whisky, his capabilities as Master Blender are really some of the finest in the world.

It all began with Billy's degree in Chemistry which he received from the University of Glasgow in 1967. This eventually led him to a job at Hiram Walker & Sons where he got into the nitty gritty of all things whisky production. Less than a decade after graduating, in 1976, he took on the role as Master Blender at Inver House Distillers.

In his time working in the industry, he has worked with distilleries such as GlenDronach, Glenglassaugh, BenRiach, Tobermory, and Deanston, and is largely responsible for transforming them into the powerhouses that we know today.

In 2021, Billy was inducted into *Whisky Magazine's* Hall of Fame, solidifying his place as one of the most influential figures in whisky history. It is hard to think of another person in modern times who has had such a positive direct influence on so many well-loved distilleries.

We catch up with the man behind the magic in advance of The GlenAllachie's vibrant visual refresh to discuss some of the highlights of his illustrious career.

What was the thought process behind The GlenAllachie's visual refresh? Why was now the right time for the rebrand?

The original designs had fulfilled the plan, and we felt the timing was right to refresh the livery. Our new look represents the brand's evolution and sets out to modernise, premiumise, and refine the brand, bringing the packaging in line with the quality inside the bottle.

What have been some of your personal highlights over the past seven years that you've been with The GlenAllachie?

GlenAllachie presented a really exciting and challenging opportunity: to bring to life a distillery that had operated under the radar and had never been allowed to express its personality as a single malt.

The journey with GlenAllachie over the last six and a half years has been breathless, with lots of interesting milestones along the way, such as understanding the inventory which was inherited, and defining the DNA of GlenAllachie going forward, re-jigging of the production plan, moving from 60 hours fermentation to 120-160, assessing and determining the spirit cut, and planning the wood programme.

All of these really important building blocks in shaping the personality of The GlenAllachie.



GlenAllachie presented a really exciting and challenging opportunity: to bring to life a distillery that had operated under the radar and had never been allowed to express its personality as a single malt.





Interestingly, as a chemist, there is always the question of *is blending a science or an art?* The reality is that blending is an art based on instinct, but the science is helpful in explaining your instinct.



Some of my personal highlights with The GlenAllachie have been the launch of the core range; the Virgin Series which saw us working with differing oak genus, provenance, and levels of toasting and charring; working with sherry and wine casks; and the extent of the reach of The GlenAllachie into so many countries.

What are the most important skills that you've picked up and learned in your exceptional decades long career in the whisky industry?

Interestingly, as a chemist, there is always the question of *is blending a science or an art?* The reality is that blending is an art based on instinct, but the science is helpful in explaining your instinct.

The process of learning and understanding never stops, but the experience of working with various distilleries gives some really interesting insights into different approaches to quality and perfection.

Currently, the availability of various styles of oak casks, the historical air drying of the casks, and the influence of different levels of toasting and charring is an on-going fascination.

In terms of innovation, what do you predict for the future of the whisky industry and the direction we're heading in?

It's difficult to predict the future, but the continuing growth of single malt looks set fair, and the growing knowledge of consumers will ensure the quality bar is set high.

Cask management will continue to be a major building block in achieving high quality expectations, and indeed flavour profiling.

Energy managements will continue to figure centre on the radar, and the near future will see the introduction of mechanical vapour recompression, solar panels, the mix of North Sea gas, biogas, and hydrogen, and a more efficient use of water.

What is your personal favourite bottle that you've worked on during your time with The GlenAllachie?

As always, the most difficult question to answer! There is a moment for every whisky. However, The GlenAllachie 15 Year Old is always a good go-to dram, and of course, the Meikle Tòir range provides a journey into a 'mainland peat' experience.



Knowledge Bar

The GlenAllachie



THE GLENALLACHIE DISTILLERY

ABERLOUR, BANFFSHIRE, AB38 9LR

1967: The GlenAllachie is built by Mackinlay McPherson and was designed to be almost completely gravity fed so that it could run on reduced energy.

1968: The distillery begins production and after just six months, two stills increased to four due to exceptional demand. The GlenAllachie Distillery was the fourth distillery designed by William Delmé-Evans and built by Mackinlay McPherson (distilling arm of Scottish and Newcastle). It was designed to be almost entirely gravity fed to run on reduced energy.

1985: The distillery is mothballed.

1989: GlenAllachie is purchased by Campbell Distillers and production resumes.

2017: Billy Walker, Trisha Savage, and Graham Stevenson join forces as The GlenAllachie Distillers Company Ltd. and purchase the distillery.

Lagg time

In the first of a new series of distillery visits, guest writer May Rosenthal Sloan joins the Whiskeria team on a voyage of discovery to the Isle of Arran, home of trailblazing Lagg, and older sister Arran Whisky.

PHOTOGRAPHY: CHRISTINA KERNOHAN
ASSISTANT: CAT THOMSON
ART DIRECTION: A VISUAL AGENCY





Distillery Visit

➤ The ferry from Ardrossan to Brodick takes less than an hour. But during that salty, windy not-quite-hour, it feels as though you are traversing more than just 17 miles of water. No sooner had we set off over the steely, grey-green sea, gently waved away by windmills dotted along the Ayrshire coast, than Arran loomed up ahead, dark and romantic, shrouded in thick fog...

The vessel itself which began ferrying passengers across the Firth of Clyde in the 1980s feels like a journey back in time, all vinyl surfaces, comfortable wipe-clean seating, and warm bright lighting. From the dedicated pet compartment to the main salon, where steaming mugs of tea and excellent cooked breakfasts are consumed, there is a feeling of welcome and friendliness.

Nostalgia hits on the ferry and continues during our drive from the port, one of our party reminiscing about the view of Arran from the window of his childhood bedroom in Ayrshire, telling us that when snow settled on Goat Fell, the island looked closer, while the fog would expand the distance. Weather is central to how this island is experienced but don't let the prospect of rain or wind put you off—it is a dreamy place to visit in all conditions and if the ferry ends up getting cancelled, well, who could complain about being forced to extend a trip to this beautiful part of the world? As we drive south-west of Brodick, we admire the wind and rain swept palm trees in front gardens, that peculiarly British seaside town phenomenon, an echo of our Victorian forbears taste for the 'exotic'.

This feeling of going forward and back in time and space is appropriate given that we're here to visit two distilleries 24 miles and 24 years apart, occupying the south and north tips of this diverse island. Lagg, in the Lowlands of Arran geographically (though still technically a Highland distillery by definition!), opened in 2019, and Lochranza, in the Highlands, home of Arran whisky.

Over two days we are welcomed by Fred in the south and Phoebe in the north who show us around, demonstrating equally impressive knowledge of their products and the island whilst giving the impression of a warm, enthusiastic whisky family. Talk of families in professional settings often feels forced but in this context it rings true. Fred

points to his mum's drawings, in amongst the work of other local artists on the walls at Lagg, and when he says of the distillery manager, "*Graham is one of my favourite people in the whole world*" I absolutely believe him. Phoebe tells us that "*it really does feel like one big family and we're all able to get very close to the product itself which is amazing.*" Certainly while we're there, every person we encounter buzzes with excitement about and knowledge of the drinks they produce.

The scent of salt and smoke hits you in the face when you walk through the doors, out of the determined wind, into the warm, calm richness of Lagg's impressive visitor centre, where the sea stretches ahead of you through the broad windows, and Ailsa Craig rises up in the distance beyond rows of trees in the distillery's orchard. The apples are currently being processed at a craft brewery in Ayrshire with the first batch of Lagg's cider expected in early summer this year and plans are afoot for a peated cider. Arran is historically known as the island of apples and we are told that the fruit is surprisingly good, owing to the gulf stream and microclimate at this end of the island (think of those palms). The difference in climate and landscape between the north and south is clear, with the Highland boundary fault cleaving through Arran's middle, contributing to the very distinct operations, producing very different products. Even the water, such a key ingredient in the distilling process, is contrasting, soft in the north and unusually hard in the south.

The ambition and vision at Lagg, (Scottish Whisky Awards' 2023 Distillery of the Year) is palpable. An example, returning to those apples, is the eventual plan to make Scottish apple brandy and in turn use the apple brandy casks for whisky and vice versa.

"*We can't call it Calvados, or the French Government would shoot us,*" Fred laughs. I'm struck by the combination of influences

and the identity of a product so profoundly located in a place and landscape which is nonetheless imbued with cultural influence, and in terms of their finishing casks, actual flavours from afar.

The distance travelled by the peat used here demonstrates the specificity of flavour, the sense of identity and the intension with which Lagg has been designed. They source their peat from St. Fergus Moss in the northeast of Scotland. It is utterly unlike coastal varieties which, full of seaweed and sphagnum moss, lend those classic iodine flavour profiles found in more traditional peated whiskies. The peat used at Lagg is a relatively high cut, rich in woody deposits and provides notes of beach bonfires (or old man's pub as Fred describes it) and a trademark grassy, earthy flavour. This is enhanced by the uncommon practice of almost continual mash raking which exposes the grains' oils and fats, producing a full creaminess in the distillery's core range.

Knowledge Bar Graham Omand



Lagg Distillery Manager

Born and raised on Islay, Graham Omand has spent his whole life in and around the whisky industry. Following a degree in biotechnology, Graham took on the role a stillman at Lochranza distillery where he worked for eight years before moving to Lagg where he fronts all operations as Distillery Manager.



The scent of salt and smoke hits you in the face when you walk through the doors, out of the determined wind, into the warm, calm richness of Lagg's impressive visitor centre...



Clockwise from top: Lagg Distillery Manager, Graham Omand; the Whiskeria team on a tour of the stillhouse with Brand Home Ambassador, Fred; Lagg's onion wash still and condenser; inside the mash tun.

Distillery Visit

Knowledge Bar

Lagg



LAGG DISTILLERY

KILMORY

ISLE OF ARRAN

KA27 8PG



Lagg Distillery

The front elevation of Lagg distillery mirrors the silhouette of Arran. This shape is also mirrored in Lagg's unique bottle design



Isle of Arran

500,000 *l*

Lagg is currently producing 500,000 litres per annum. However, the distillery has a maximum capacity of 750,000 litres per annum



Onion wash still

Lagg, unusually, has two different stills — a lantern shaped still and a shorter onion-shaped still.



Lamp glass spirit still



50ppm

Lagg's barley has a phenol content of 50ppm



72



72 hours Fermentation time

2019



Spirit first ran from the stills just five years ago in 2019



Distillery Visit

Comparatively at Lochranza, raking is much more minimal with resulting whiskies still possessing an oiliness but with lighter, fruitier, less creamy texture and flavour. Even the shape of the stills demonstrates the different approaches. Lochranza's elegant tall thin onion stills compare with the squatter, fatter shapes at Lagg which were custom made for the heavier, earthier spirit. As we are shown around the bright, spacious stillhouse, Fred points out the amount of room there is for growth, which is not planned any time soon but the potential for which has been built in from Lagg's very start.

This is a forward-looking proposition; confident modernity, rooted in celebrated heritage, where innovation sits side by side with the desire to promote a broad appeal. That combination is reflected in the visitor centre bar where the menu is small but thoughtfully designed, centred on a trio of grazing boards, the best of which makes use of the excellent local seafood. There are also treats like peated hot chocolate and whisky affogato as well as a mini whisky and chocolate pairing. It appears that everyone from the connoisseur to the whisky virgin has been thought about and catered for in this welcoming space.

The magnificent view from the spacious yet cosy bar is, Fred tells us, the same view as he had from his bedroom window growing up. Lucky Fred, I think and yet the fortune of Arran's young people is a complex one, with housing shortages on the island cited by multiple people we talk to. Fred tells us that were it not for the job at Lagg, there is no way he would have been able to stay. But it is clear that Arran Distilleries are managing to both retain and indeed attract young talent which will impact on the cultural and social future of the island. Phoebe who hails from Yorkshire tells us that she barely knew where Arran was before she ended up living here after graduating, when she looked for live-in jobs that would allow her to travel and eventually landed a position at Lochranza that she is clearly passionate about.

Running through both distilleries is a sense of quality and solidity, with an undercurrent of fun. For such a distinctive range of products, it is interesting that Lagg is described as a chameleon spirit, which works in every setting. We ask about cocktails and are told the citrusy, oily nature of the Corriecravie works

particularly well in an Old Fashioned, while the Kilmory makes a mean whisky sour. 95% of Lagg whisky ends up in bourbon barrels which provides rounded sweetness to its peaty character but there are also some sherry finishes, with Oloroso casks taking fresh lemon notes and adding spice, chocolatiness, and, Fred points out, a hint of cola cubes. The tour and tasting are both delightfully punctuated by his esoteric but on-the-nose tasting notes. Lochranza is known for its sherry finishes where Lagg is all about peat. He describes the way the two distilleries' product react to the same casks, using sauternes as an example and telling us that when Arran whisky is finished in a Sauternes cask, the result is a sweet, light jamminess akin to a continental breakfast.



When Lagg is finished in the same way he says, it is like introducing the rich, dark bitterness of a good marmalade into that breakfast. It is an interesting comparison and I reflect during our conversations, that Lochranza appears to be a thread woven right through the identity of Lagg. Much is made of the sibling relationship between the two distilleries. What sets the younger apart is peat. The aroma of peat runs through every inch of Lagg, bringing to mind a chain-smoking, irreverent younger sister to its older, more established sibling at Lochranza. But don't all youngest siblings know we're more rock and roll than our elders?! Perhaps.

Fred and Phoebe both tell me separately that compared with the other, their distillery is a bit more experimental and I can't help thinking about my brother and I bickering as teenagers about who

had seen the cooler bands or been to the more niche club nights. In fact, though I am unequivocally cooler, my taste in music (and just about everything else) was shaped by my brother and I like to think I had an impact on him too. Such appears to be the case with these Arran water siblings. At one point during our tour of Lagg, Fred tells us proudly that he was born in the same year that Lochranza was founded, *"So everyone's really excited about the anniversary but for me it just means my 30th birthday and an impending existential crisis!"* Later, Phoebe rolls her eyes, *"yeah, of course Fred is the same age as the distillery, he always likes to brag about that."*

Affectionate bickering aside, the experience of touring both distilleries brings a whole series of illuminating and enriching comparisons, not to mention the chance to traverse the many landscapes and weatherscapes of the island and all it has to offer which the distilleries' staff are well versed in. They recommend The Parlour in Brodick where the pizza menu reads like a whisky list (the smoky one, the fruity one, the earthy one and, my choice, the savoury one, replete with thick, umami-rich slabs of king oyster mushroom, generous slices of Parma ham, and a finishing of gremolata). Phoebe tells us the guys who run it are friends of hers and when I joke about a whisky pizza pairing, the twinkle in her eye suggests this may in fact be in the offing. We finish our first day on Arran with a stay at the gorgeous Douglas Hotel in Brodick where the hearty food menu and appropriately generous drinks list provide the perfect setting in which to unwind and digest the day's magnificent intake before slipping off into the deepest of sleeps in what might be the world's comfiest beds.

The next day our ferry is cancelled, and we all make a show of being stressed at the prospect of not making it home to families and work commitments. The staff at the Douglas warmly assure us that they have beds for us all should we need them and when the next ferry leaves without a hitch we are, I think, all quietly disappointed that we can't take them up on their offer.



95% of Lagg whisky ends up in bourbon barrels which provides rounded sweetness to its peaty character but there are also some sherry finishes, with Oloroso casks taking fresh lemon notes and adding spice, chocolatiness, and, Fred points out, a hint of cola cubes.



Brand Home Ambassador, Fred Baumgärtner
 Bottom, left to right: Lagg Distillery entrance; barrels upon barrels; the Whiskeria team in one of Lagg's warehouses.
 Left hand page: Lagg's warehouses.

Distillery Visit



Comparatively at Lochranza, [mash] raking is much more minimal with resulting whiskies still possessing an oiliness but with lighter, fruitier, less creamy texture and flavour.



*Top: equipment in Lochranza Distillery's filling shed.
Middle, left to right: Lochranza Distillery's warehouse;
empty casks outside Lochranza's warehouse
Bottom: Lochranza's stillhouse*



Knowledge Bar
Arran



ISLE OF ARRAN DISTILLERS LTD.

LOCHRANZA

ISLE OF ARRAN

KA27 8HJ

Timeline

1995: Production begins at Lochranza Distillery.

1998: The distillery's first bottling, a three-year-old whisky, is released.

2010: Machrie Moor, Arran's peated expression, is launched. The foundations that lead to the creation of Lagg distillery have been laid!

2019: Arran Whisky undergoes a significant and spectacular rebrand.



Clockwise from top: The team take in the surrounding views at Lochranza; the exterior of Warehouse 3; the Whiskeria team led by Lochranza Brand Home Ambassador, Phoebe Hall; Phoebe shows the team the inside of one of Lochranza's washbacks

Distillery Visit



“Leather on the nose. A light, earthy palate with soft smoky notes.”

Lagg new make spirit



“Tastes almost like a tequila! Light, bright, and very easy to drink.”

Lagg Kilmory

“Sweet grassy goodness.”

Lagg Distillery Exclusive



“Lashings of golden syrup and Christmas cake with a hint of wood polish in the finish.”

Lagg Corrie Cravie



Neil Jamieson, Whisky Specialist, The Whisky Shop gives his verdict on Lagg Kilmory and Corrie Cravie



Top row, left to right: taking notes; tasting Lagg new make, Kilmory, Corrie Cravie, and a Distillery Exclusive; Lagg Distillery Exclusive. Bottom row: Whisky Specialist Neil Jamieson in his element; Art Director Emlyn Firth nosing a dram; writer May Rosenthal Sloan sampling Corrie Cravie; Producer Fran Wilson putting her tasting skills to the test.

Lagg Kilmory
Island single malt
NAS | 70cl | 46% VOL | £50

Nose: Hints of burning cinnamon, citrus fruits, and caramel wafers.

Palate: Smoked oysters, toffee apples, and ripe pears.

Finish: Coconut, nutmeg, and waves of peat smoke.



Lagg Corrie Cravie
Island single malt
NAS | 70cl | 55% VOL | £65

Nose: Aromatic tobacco, exotic spices, and pine nuts.

Palate: Dried figs, cocoa, and wild berries.

Finish: Waves of peat smoke, dark fruits, and apricots.





BTS PHOTOGRAPHY: CAT THOMSON

Clockwise from top left: Marshland; boarding the ferry; photographer Christina Kernohan getting some shots in Lagg's warehouse; the team deep in discussion with Fred; Christina and Emlyn shooting in Lochranza's warehouse; the team sampling spirit from the washbacks in Lagg; Christina and rainbow.

Knowledge Bar Top Trip Tips



Travel

Ferries between Brodick and Ardrossan booked via **Caledonian MacBrayne**

Book online at www.calmac.co.uk

Stay

Our party were shown great hospitality at **The Douglas Hotel**, a Victorian era sandstone townhouse on Brodick seafront. They also serve traditional Scottish food in their restaurant, and an excellent selection of whiskeys in their bar and brasserie.

The Douglas Hotel
Shore Road
Brodick
Isle of Arran
KA27 8AW

Pizza

The unanimous vote from Fred and Phoebe for a post distillery tour carb up, **The Parlour's** unconventional pizza toppings went down a storm.

The Parlour
Kames Cottage
Brodick
Isle of Arran
KA27 8BU

**ROD
STEWART**

•

**EVERY
PICTURE
TELLS A
STORY**





Interview

All hail Sir Roderick David Stewart CBE. Rock royalty. National treasure. And now, whisky entrepreneur.

With a career spanning over six decades, you might think that Rod Stewart would be taking his foot off of the gas. Instead, at 79, he is in the midst of a global launch for his renegade whisky brand *Wolfie's*, already a huge hit in the UK. Rod's latest album, *Swing Fever* (a collaboration with Jools Holland), is hot off the presses, and he's now embarking on yet another world tour.

Granted an exclusive audience with Rod, and *Wolfie's* co-founder Duncan Frew, *Whiskeria* took a deep dive into a pictorial archive of Rod in his 70's pomp—snapshots of people, places, fashion, football and fun that embody a multi-faceted man, and a life well and truly lived. Every picture tells a story...

Rod Stewart and Duncan Frew, *Wolfie's* CEO and co-founder, started working together in 2021. Prior to *Wolfie's*, Frew had amassed two decades worth of experience in the drinks and hospitality industry. They initially bonded over a love of football, but Duncan's vision to channel Rod's legendary lust for life and rock and roll swagger into a powerhouse whisky brand has created a professional partnership which is now a headline act. Here, they give us their inside-track on the making of *Wolfie's*

Rod and whisky seems like a perfect match. It's going really well, isn't it?

Duncan: Our plan was to do a soft launch in 2023 but that decision was kind of taken out of our hands because so many countries were contacting us. So, we're now selling into America, lots of countries in Europe, Canada is opening up soon, we're in duty free starting in April—we're actually going up to Rod's closet today at some point to find some costumes to add to our duty-free stand in

Hamburg—and then even Asia.

Rod: With the brand, the *Wolfie's* character was cheeky and a bit of a rascal. It's fun.

Duncan: We didn't want to make it Rod Stewart whisky. *Wolfie's* is meant to be the rock star and create this character. But there are wee subtle hints of Rod—obviously there's the signature at the bottom of the bottle, there's *Rhythm Of My Heart*, and there's actually something that no one knows about which is that the eight stars around the wolf are because Rod's got eight kids.

Rod: I thought it was because we beat Rangers eight times! We've had a good time putting it together. Mainly because Dunc and I are Celtic fans! But we get on well and that's very important.

***Wolfie's* is so heavily inspired by rock and roll and Americana, and it stands out in the whisky industry. Why was this the right direction for you?**

Rod: You could look at whisky as being a

bit tweed jacket-y and stuffy.

Duncan: It came about because we were having a laugh with it and having fun. When you look back at those photos, they are all rock and roll music fun and what goes hand in hand is drinking. Obviously the Scottish connection Rod has was a factor, too.

It was funny, about three months ago we were driving back from The Ritz after tasting the cocktail that we collaborated with them on—*Rhythm of My Heart*—from one of the best bartenders in the world and then we popped into The Cock which is a local pub, and we were having it neat. It's fun to see people drinking it in different ways rather than us dictating that it must be served at a certain temperature with no ice. Have a bit of fun, turn the music on or drink it, have a concert, and have a giggle.

[Opening Page image, in pool]

Rod in Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, March, 1976

David Steen © David Steen Archive / Camera Press



We've found lots of amazing images of you from over the years, and especially the archive of photographer David Steen. Was he someone you liked taking your portrait?

Rod: Yeah, he was a good friend. I was introduced to him through Britt Eckland, the famous Swedish 007 actress. What is that round his neck?!

We were going to ask you that! Was the necklace Britt Eckland's idea?

Rod: I've got no idea, mate. I'm sure it was—she was always the one telling me to wear eye makeup. It was all a go at the time, everyone was wearing eye makeup.

A bit of guyliner didn't do you any harm, then?

Rod: Absolutely!



Five Guys Walk Into a Bar...

*The Faces classic line up:
L–R Ronnie Lane (bass, vocals),
Ronnie Wood (guitar), Kenney Jones (drums),
Ian McLagan (keys), Rod Stewart (vocals)*

© Getty Images

Were you a fan of Small Faces before everything happened with those guys?

Rod: Yeah. Steve Marriott was a good friend of mine. He had a bloody good soul voice—but not as good as mine!

Duncan: Who's that? Is that a girl peeking out in the back?

Rod: She certainly shouldn't be there—it looks like we're in the gents toilets! I don't know what she's doing there.

What kind of memories do you have with Ronnie Lane, Ronnie Wood, Ian McLagan, and Kenney Jones?

Rod: Oh, only wonderful, fond memories and a considerable amount of drinking. We used to purposely not have any lunch so that when we had the first port and brandy of an evening, it would have an immediate effect. How three of us are still living, I don't know. That used to be our remedy—don't have any lunch so that when we have a drink tonight we'll get real pissed! And then we'd go on stage!

Rod: With the Faces, every night was like Christmas Eve

I suppose the whole love of blues and soul and that infectious Faces sound links in to the Americana, bourbon vibe of Wolfie's?

Rod: Yeah. In fact, this is an absolutely brilliant picture for Wolfie's. It really looks like we've been on the Wolfie's for a few hours.

Duncan: When Rod and I started developing the brand a few years ago over copious amounts of whisky, whenever Rod talked about that era I would get really pissed off because I wanted to be there. It's the renaissance period of rock'n'roll and that's what we wanted to bottle up and create. That picture is Wolfie's in a snapshot

Interview



Last Orders Please

© Getty Images

Rod: I think I was in London, but I can't remember the name of the pub. My son looks through these pictures and says "Dad, I can't believe you have these high waisted trousers" because they're all coming back into fashion now.

They're incredible!

Rod: He goes looking through my wardrobe. I mean, my dad was a plumber, and I never used to wear his clothes, but my 18-year-old ransacks my wardrobe and comes out with all my of clothes. I'm proud of that.

You were one of the prototypes, before glam rock, to have a very masculine image offset by really feminine clothes. Where were you getting the clothes from? Did you have stylists? What was the inspiration?

Rod: I love dressing up. I still dress for dinner every night—everyone thinks I'm mad! Before I was famous and before I had any money, I always thought that clothes were an extension of your personality.

Duncan: I've learned my lesson—I'm wearing a tartan tie just because I'm hanging

out with Rod. I always like to dress smart. He gave me some of his suits recently.

Rod: I'm wearing a Celtic tracksuit today by the way!

Talking of Celtic, what are your favourite pubs in Glasgow?

Rod: My favourite pub around Glasgow has just closed down, I think. The Wee Barrel, on Love Street in Paisley. I'd been going to that pub for 35 years—all my signatures are on the wall.

I like the Dirty Duchess—that's my 'local' now—and Murphy's.. We go to those two pubs every time I come up for a wee drink before the game.

Duncan: I've actually got a bone to pick with you, Rod! We were in the Dirty Duchess after the last football game, and we were handing out Wolfie's Appletinis which are Rod's favourite. I got the bar tab at the end, and I think we'd handed out something like 217 Wolfie's Appletinis.

Rod: And there were no arrests!



Some Guys Have All The Luck

Rod Stewart pictured with his Lamborghini Miura Chassis 3372 in 1971

© Getty Images

Rod: That's my Lamborghini Miura. I paid £6,900 and it went for £1.3 million last year.

You only just sold the car?

Rod: No, no, no – I sold it for about five grand. But they're such thoroughbreds now that they bring millions. I wish I'd kept it! My children keep saying "Dad, why didn't you keep your cars?!"

You've had quite a few Lamborghinis and Ferraris over the years—you're a big car guy.

Rod: I still am!

Interview



We're the best team I've ever seen

Rod Stewart wearing his beloved Scotland team's football strip.

© Getty Images

How are you feeling about Scotland being in another major tournament this year?

Rod: I'll be going! Duncan and I were just sitting here trying to work it out because I've got a huge tour coming up so I'm actually in Germany all the way through June. I can get to all the games, apart from the opening one.

Favourite Scotland player past and present?

Rod: Oh there's too many of them! I'm actually having dinner on Saturday with Scott Brown and Kenny Dalglish—they were two of my favourites.

We had the Celtic convention, and I had this good idea to raise money—how much money would someone pay to have dinner with me, Scott, Kenny, and our wives. This guy came up with over £100,000! Everybody's going to The Ritz on Saturday—I'm footing the bill.

I'm quite shy and quite intimidated by this because these are guys that I've looked at from a distance for so long. I know Kenny quite well and Scott sort of but I feel like a little schoolboy.

So there'll be a few Wolfie's going down?

Rod: Yeah, I was in The Ritz last night planning it all.

Handbags and Gladrags

Rod Stewart in his back garden, 1973

© Getty Images

We thought this was a great image for our Spring magazine. We loved the colour palette of the outfit. Do you remember where this one was taken?

Rod: Hey, I was doing it all before Harry Styles! I used to wear a fur boa, he wears a fur boa now. This was taken where I used to live in Ascot near the racecourse. I moved out in 1975 to America and then only came back three years ago.

You only moved back three years ago? There's that famous interview with Parkinson where he grills you on moving to America to avoid high UK taxes, and you said you only know how to do one thing, and it's sing?

Rod: Yeah, I remember going to the Parkinson show and I said *"no way am I going to move away"* and then of course the taxation went up ridiculously. I think it was the Harold Wilson government and Callaghan was the Treasurer and they put the taxes up. Everybody left—I mean, I was on a plane with Joe Cocker, The Bee Gees, and Eric Clapton. We all left because we didn't know how long we were gonna last in this business. You only get one shot at it and I'm not gonna give it all to the bloody government. I don't mind paying my share but 88%?

What's the secret to your longevity then?

Rod: I don't know. I love it. I said to my son yesterday who is at college and wants to study and make movies, *"Whatever you've got to do, you've got to have that burning desire inside that you're absolutely committed to it and nothing else, like I was with singing."* Otherwise, you're going to get waylaid somewhere and stray off and not concentrate in what you're doing. It's got to be really, really ingrained in your brain what you're going to do.



Interview



Tonight's the Night

Rod Stewart appearing on 'Cher... Special' in 1978

© Getty Images

Rod: What's this one here? That's a good picture! You may notice that the haircut remains the same!

It's your signature!

Rod: Do you know what The Queen and I had in common? We both had the same hairstyle for 70 years! Rest in peace, Your Majesty.

This shot is from a Cher show TV appearance. We especially liked it because it looks like you're behind a whisky bar. We thought this was maybe where the love affair with whisky started?

Rod: I've never seen this photo before in my life! It looks like I'm standing in front of a mirror as opposed to behind the bar!

The Faces used to have a bar on stage, and we used to have a lot of girls dressed up like St. Trinian's schoolgirls serving as booze. You

wouldn't get away with that now!

You actually had a bar on stage?

Rod: Yeah. Not for the whole tour, but we did it in Edmonton in London and we all got so bloody drunk that we couldn't play so we knocked it on the head!



Ooh La La

Rod Stewart photographed at the Pierre Hotel in 1977 with then-girlfriend, model Bebe Buell

© Getty Images

Rod: That was my girlfriend at the time, Bebe Buell, a big *Vogue* model.

What are you drinking here? Wine, brandy or port?

Rod: Could be port and brandy.

So port and brandy was a regular party tippie?

Rod: Yeah!

Duncan: Was port and brandy nice?

Rod: It's not bad, especially if you drink it a little bit warm.

Duncan: Maybe I'll have one for lunch!

Interview



Had Me a Real Good Time

Rod Stewart in 1975 surrounded by tapes of old football games watching a recording of a Scotland vs. England match at Hampden

David Steen © David Steen Archive / Camera Press

Rod: Oh, look at those boots!

They're great!

Rod: I remember this because I was actually watching a Scotland game back when they beat England, I think 2-1 up at Hampden.

We assumed those video tapes were performances that you were watching back but they were actually just football games?

Rod: No, I've never watched a performance back. I might find out the truth that I'm pretty useless!

Knowledge Bar

Wolfie's



Founded by Sir Rod Stewart and designed to reflect his rock 'n' roll heritage, with subtle nods to Americana, Wolfie's is a blended Scotch whisky that was inspired by the legendary musician's early hell raising days with The Faces.

With its unique blend of rock 'n' roll roots, Americana and Scottish heritage, Wolfie's is bringing something new to the Scotch whisky market and truly has Scotland at its heart. It is distilled on the banks of Loch Lomond by an expert team with decades of whisky-making know-how and an all-Scottish team behind the brand.

Referencing the opening track from Rod's 1991 album *Vagabond Heart*, the lyrics 'Rhythm of My Heart' are emblazoned on the base of the bottle. Rod's recording of the song was a nod to his own Scottish heritage having adapted the melody from the traditional folk song, Loch Lomond.

Wolfie's Blended Scotch Whisky

70cl | 40% VOL | £35

Wolfie's is wonderfully balanced with flavours of warming cinnamon, fresh vanilla and baked apple—Rod's favourite flavours! The whisky has a delicate taste of sweet peat and pears in syrup before finishing with candied citrus peels and a gentle oak spice.

Nose: Baked red apple, warming cinnamon spice and delicate sweet peat.

Taste: Orchard fruits—red apple and pears in syrup before candied citrus peels, vanilla and oak spice.

Finish: Gentle oak spice and lingering sweet peat.



Top: Rod Stewart enjoying a Wolfie's while promoting his new album, *Swing Time* (Photograph courtesy of Penny Lancaster)

WEST COAST BOTANICALS THE LOCH FYNE

The Loch Fyne Whisky
& Botanical Gin cocktails,
shot on location in the
west coast of Scotland

PHOTOGRAPHY: ARMANDO FERRARI
ART DIRECTION: A VISUAL AGENCY
MIXOLOGY: LUKE CROWLEY HOLLAND



BOTANICAL GIN

THE LOCH FYNE
"SCOTLAND"
BOTANICAL GIN

Distilled with a
careful selection of
Scottish botanicals.

BOTANICAL GIN



Rest & Be Thankful

- 20ml Cognac
- 25ml Loch Fyne Gin
- 25ml Loch Fyne Chocolate & Orange Liqueur
- 10ml Lemon juice
- 2.5ml Sugar syrup
- Pinch of salt

Glass: Coupe
Garnish: Heather (alternatively, lemon peel)

Method: Add cognac, Loch Fyne Gin, Loch Fyne Chocolate & Orange Liqueur, lemon juice, sugar syrup, and salt to a cocktail shaker filled with ice / Shake well / Strain into chilled coupe / Garnish with heather / Enjoy

A supremely classy drink. Tart and refreshing, this is the perfect cocktail to enjoy watching the sun set on a beautiful April evening. The Rest and Be Thankful is a Loch Fyne take on the 1950s classic Between The Sheets No.2.





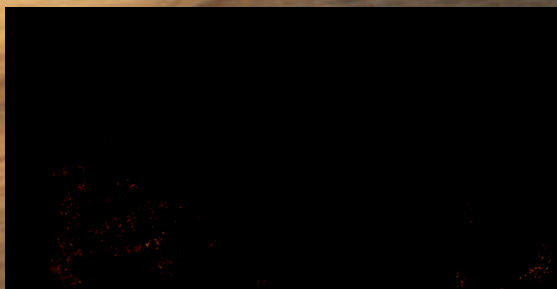
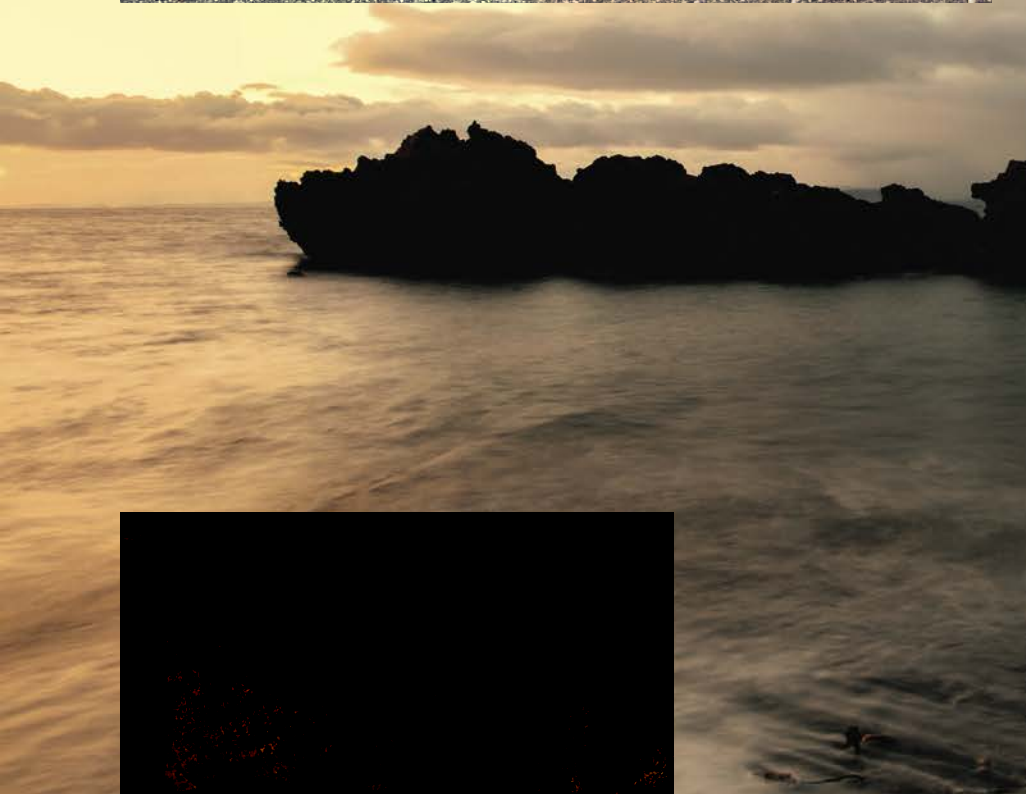




The Loch Fyne The Living Cask 1745

Serve neat, or with a splash of water / Enjoy
Glass: Tumbler

A delectable blend which marries together
100% Islay single malts to create this
beautifully smoky sensation.



The Loch Fyne Penicillin Cocktail

40ml The Loch Fyne Blend

20ml The Loch Fyne Chocolate & Orange Liqueur

15ml The Loch Fyne Ledaig 11 Year Old

20ml Lemon juice

15ml Honey syrup

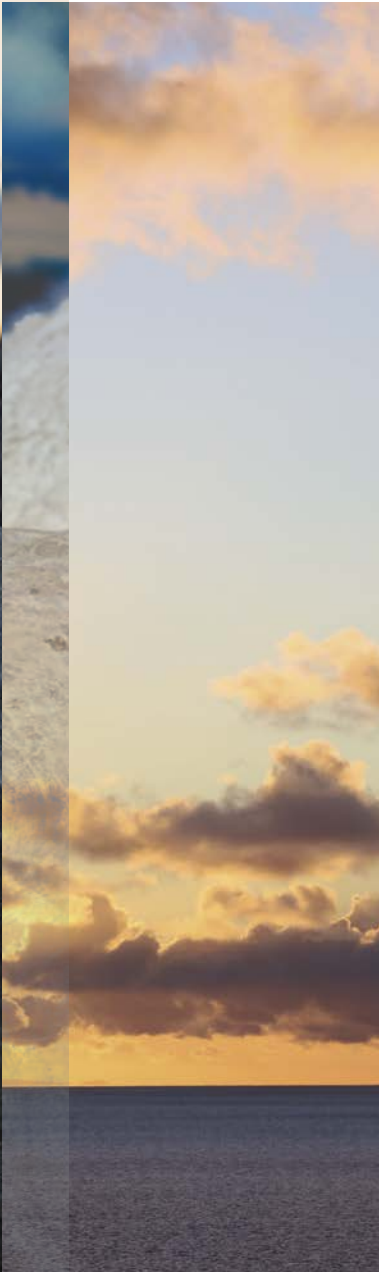
Glass: Tumbler

Garnish: Caramelised kelp (alternatively,
crystallised ginger)

Ice: Cubed

A modern classic and an official International Bartenders Association cocktail—somewhere between a Whisky Sour and Hot Toddy. Each ingredient is either said to have medicinal properties or impart flavours that allude to them, such as the subtle peat notes of The Loch Fyne Ledaig. The cocktail's unmistakable aesculapian-esque aspects are why its name comes from the drug discovered by Nobel Prize-winning Scottish scientist, Alexander Fleming.







The Loch Fyne Fruit Cup

- 50ml Loch Fyne Blend
 - 50ml Loch Fyne and Chocolate Liqueur
 - 20ml sweet vermouth
 - Dash orange bitters
 - 5 dashes of cocoa bitters
 - 40ml ginger beer
 - 60ml Irn Bru
-

Glass: Highball
Garnish: Rosemary, thyme, mint, lavender, strawberries, orange slice, and apple slice.
Ice: Cubed

Fruit Cups have been in high demand since at least the 1940s—most recently in vogue between 2008 and 2018. The mint, thyme, English lavender, and rosemary were grown in mixologist Luke’s front garden in Scotland. The left-of-field inclusion of lavender, thyme, and rosemary give this drink a very different feel to a traditional English Fruit Cup.





Auld Freen

40ml Loch Fyne Botanical Gin
25ml freshly squeezed grapefruit juice
15ml Loch Fyne Chocolate & Orange Liqueur
10ml Campari
Dash of rose water

Glass: Coupe

Garnish: Freeze dried raspberries and edible rose petals (alternatively, grapefruit peel)

Method: Add Loch Fyne Botanical Gin, grapefruit juice, Loch Fyne Chocolate & Orange Liqueur, Campari, and rose water to cocktail shaker filled with ice / Shake well / Rim coupe with crushed freeze-dried raspberries / Strain cocktail into coupe / Top with edible rose petals / Enjoy

Bitter, sweet, and floral—inspired by the 'Scots Rose' that can be found growing in the west coast of Scotland for a brief period in the late spring and early summer months; *'Ae fond kiss, and then we sever'*.



The Loch Fyne Chocolate & Orange Liqueur

Serve neat or with ice / Enjoy
Glass: Tumbler

Tangerine dream! This sweet and warming
whisky liqueur is just as delicious served neat
as it is in any of the previous concoctions.
Created for whisky lovers by whisky lovers



Whisky People



KITCHEN ISLAND ALCHEMY

Craig Grozier, founder of Fallachan Dining, fuses whisky and cuisine into magical culinary experiences.



PHOTOGRAPHY: CHRISTINA KERNOHAN
ART DIRECTION: A VISUAL AGENCY

➔ Craig Grozier likens his hometown of Dingwall to Islay. Both are tight-knit communities centred around whisky production and distillation. Having travelled the globe working for world-renowned restaurants, Craig has broad culinary horizons and has spent decades in the pursuit of traditional knowledge and gastronomical innovation, but his Scottish roots and love of whisky are deeply engrained in his work. Craig's scientific approach to his craft, and his possession of an encyclopaedic knowledge of where flavours originate and how they might combine, have enabled him to find ways of utilising Scotch to spectacular effect in his cooking. As Craig puts it, *"this knowledge gives you a unique way to attack food."*

At the end of 2019 Craig travelled to the Tuscan hills, learning how to make cured meats and salami. Upon returning home to Glasgow, it wasn't long before the country was in lockdown, and Craig, with plenty of unanticipated time on his hands, and inspired by what he had learned in Italy, began using his tenement storm doors as a makeshift curing chamber to



Top to bottom: peat set ablaze with a blowtorch; John Dory; barley grains

Whisky People

Knowledge Bar

Fallachan Signatures



① | Heavily peated Octomore sourdough with whisky wash butter

The sourdough is perfectly peated, chewy, and tangy. Craig notes he was worried that the flavour may not have appealed to non-whisky drinking guests but it has been universally applauded. The whisky wash butter is smooth, creamy, and ridiculously decadent. There's a lot of lactic acid in washbacks and in butter production, so when the whisky wash is used to inoculate the butter "it makes the butter more buttery".

The presentation of the dish is equally simple but wonderfully executed. The bread sits on a board made out of an old whisky barrel, alongside a piece of smouldering peat, while the butter rests on stones Craig has collected from the shores of Port Bahn in Islay.

② | Free company hogget with sugar kelp, black walnut, and sea leek

A masterful combination of tender hogget (sheep when it is between a year and two years old), fresh sea leek, Tennent's Lager vinegar pickled black walnut, and sweet sugar kelp. This dish ticks every box. The hogget is particularly buttery and sumptuous. Paired with the sweetness of the sugar kelp and the gentle savoury notes from the sea leek, the final result is spectacular.

③ | Mussel, bere barley miso, and turnip broth

Simultaneously sweet, salty, and punchy, the unlikely combination of neeps and mussels creates a fascinatingly well-rounded dish. The sweetness of the turnips and the miso shine alongside the mussels' deep umami richness. Simply incredible.

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The synergy with the distillery is more than a partnership.



Top to bottom: Bottles of Bruichladdich and The Botanist will always be behind Fallachan's bar; Fallachan's seasoning shelf; burner in the kitchen.



We're not just using the whisky—we're using the peat, we're using the malts, we're using the bere barley, we're using the wash.



create 'Glasgow charcuterie'. Now, with the technique perfected (and a more traditional chamber constructed), Craig's charcuterie is an integral part of Fallachan Kitchen's offering.

Launched in 2023 as a unique private-dining experience, Fallachan Kitchen is built into the arch of a railway bridge, adjacent to sprawling arts venue SWG3, in the post-industrial, riverside area Finnieston area of Glasgow. Fallachan defies typical fine-dining conventions—guests are seated around one large rectangular table with twelve chairs, surrounded by raw ingredients, and the kitchen directly behind them, with no partition.

"When you come and that's all lit up, the fire's going, there's peat going on it to smoke the meat, people love that they can see it all happen when they're here," explains Craig. *"That was what I wanted."*

As we watch Craig and his team prep for evening service, we are treated to delicious samples of hogget with sea leek, peat smoked John Dory roe with margarine potato and sea lettuce, roasted laver and whisky wash tablet, and—what the Whiskeria team are most excited to try—heavily-peated Octomore sourdough with whisky wash butter. Fallachan's menu changes monthly with a large proportion of the ingredients being foraged by Craig himself. He takes trips over to Islay to collect mussels from Black Rock, and dangles over craggy coastlines to harvest

pepper dulse seaweed. This foraging habit led to Craig forming relationships with Islay powerhouses, Bruichladdich and The Botanist.

Around a decade ago, The Botanist caught wind of what Craig was doing and invited him to Bruichladdich distillery to cook. Craig has continued to collaborate with The Botanist and Bruichladdich ever since, with Octomore whisky fulfilling that especially peated role in Fallachan's menu. The Octomore sourdough was brought into existence from Craig's passion to recreate what he smelt when he first walked through the doors of Bruichladdich distillery and present it to diners in a dish.

"The synergy with the distillery is more than a partnership," says Craig. At Fallachan, the menu regularly engages with Scottish grains and fermentation—there's so much to gain from the ingredients used in whisky production as opposed to solely including whisky from the bottle in dishes. *"We're not just using the whisky—we're using the peat, we're using the malts, we're using the bere barley, we're using the wash,"* explains Craig. Everything is circular and there's so much more to be gained by interacting with produce at all levels.

The dishes at Fallachan are testament to this. As far as innovation goes, Craig Grozier is leading the charge in the Scottish food scene.



Whisky business



1 Ardbeg releases The Rollercoaster

Ardbeg has released two very special whiskies that were laid to rest at key moments in the distillery's history—one from 1981 when the distillery closed and one from 1989 when it reopened. The 1981 expression consists of Ardbeg's last stock from that fateful year. The 1989 expression is made from liquid that was laid to rest just weeks after the distillery reopened. 143 sets of the two whiskies are housed in spectacular presentation boxes created by John Galvin.

3 Port Ellen Gemini launches

Port Ellen has launched Gemini in advance of the distillery reopening after spending four decades silent. With just 274 sets produced and at 44-years-old, it is both the oldest and one of the rarest releases in Port Ellen's history. The liquid in the two bottles in the set (Port Ellen Gemini Original and Port Ellen Gemini Remnant) were initially matured together before being split into European oak butts and an experimental Port Ellen remnant cask.

2 Graham McTavish launches his own whiskey brand

Our Summer 2022 cover star, Graham McTavish, has launched his very own American whiskey brand. Described on the bottles as "A Scotsman's dream of America", the brand's inaugural releases include The Warchief, a 7-year-old bottled-in-bond bourbon, and The Keeper, a Kentucky rye whiskey. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Graham on this exciting new venture!



4 The Whisky Shop Multrees Walk and Cardiff turn 1!

Both our Multrees Walk and Cardiff stores have recently celebrated their first anniversary. They have had a fabulous first year of trading and are wonderful additions to The Whisky Shop chain. Congratulations to the teams in Cardiff and Multrees Walk for an incredible year—time flies!



ISSUE

Spring 2024

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whiskyshop.com

THE WHISKY SHOP

UNIQUE
DIFFERENT
INTERESTING



SPRING '24

Easter Treats

Sustainable Sensations

Passion for Peat

St. Patrick's Day

Please note: prices accurate at the time of printing.

THE WHISKY SHOP

Easter Treats

Delectable tipples to pair with your chocolate this Easter.

① The Octave Tullibardine 2013 10 Year Old The Whisky Shop Exclusive

70cl | 52.6% VOL | £110

Cocoa / Salted cashews / Lavender

- Exclusively bottled for us here at The Whisky Shop
- This rare beauty is one of a 93-bottle run - get it before it's gone!
- It has enjoyed a five-month finish in sherry wood octave casks

② Plantation Barbados 10 Year Old Rum The Whisky Shop Exclusive

70cl | 50.9% VOL | £105

Roasted nuts / Baked apple / Coconut

- Distilled in both pot and column stills on the beautiful shores of Barbados
- Matured in a combination of bourbon casks, cognac barrels, and an Arran whisky cask!
- An ultra-unique The Whisky Shop exclusive release

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③ Loch Fyne Glenallachie 10 Year Old

70cl | 54.4% VOL | £105 Toffee apple / Stewed berries / Treacle

- An impressive limited run of just 438 bottles
- Finished in a single Ximenez-Spinola sherry cask
- A sweet and decadent dream!

⑤ Arran Signature Series Remnant Renegade Edition 1

70cl | 46% VOL | £82 Star anise / Honey / Orange blossom

- The first release of Arran's Signature Series
- This expression pulls together various casks filled over two decades
- Featuring sherry hogsheads, sherry butts, and bourbon barrels

④ Edradour 10 Year Old Oloroso Sherry Cask

70cl | 59.2% VOL | £120 Liquorice / Treacle / Raisins

- Rich and sumptuous fare from Scotland's Little Gem
- Just 683 bottles have been filled from a single Oloroso sherry cask
- Another spectacular The Whisky Shop exclusive

⑥ Tobermory Hebridean Coast Gin

70cl | 43% VOL | £39 Juniper / Citrus / Lavender

- A small batch gem from the Isle of Mull
- Made using locally sourced botanicals such as samphire, sugar kelp, and lavender
- A splash of spirit from the whisky stills is added to the mix!

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THE WHISKY SHOP

Sustainable Sensations

Looking to shop more sustainably? Here are some trailblazing drams to get you started.

① **Deanston 2002 Organic**

70cl | 49.3% VOL | £135

Raisins / Maple syrup / Caramel

- A presentation of Deanston's 100% natural process
- It has enjoyed a finish in organic Pedro Ximenez casks
- Well-rounded and well-aged

② **The Macallan The Harmony Collection Intense Arabica**

70cl | 44% VOL | £230

Sweet oak / Raisins / Dark roast coffee

- Part of The Macallan's The Harmony Series, a collection inspired by the natural world
- Intense Arabica is The Macallan's first coffee-inspired release
- The box has been made using recycled coffee bean husks

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③ Teeling Small Batch Rum Cask Finish

70cl | 46% VOL | £41

Baked apples / Lemon zest / Caramel

- A small batch expression from one of Ireland's most sustainable whiskey distilleries
- Matured in ex-bourbon barrels before being transferred to ex-rum barrels for a year
- A spectacularly sweet and fruity blend

⑤ Nc'nean Organic

70cl | 46% VOL | £58

Peach / Orange / Lemongrass

- Nc'nean is a certified organic distillery with rigorous environmental processes
- Created using organic Scottish barley
- Matured in a combination of ex-bourbon and red wine barrels

④ Maker's Mark Private Select Batch 5

70cl | 53.8% VOL | £120

Tonka bean / Vanilla / Chocolate

- Maker's Mark is a B-Corp-certified distillery, leading the way in sustainable bourbon production
- This expression is exclusive to The Whisky Shop, hand-picked by our team of experts
- A real sumptuous sipper!

⑥ Glengoyne 30 Year Old The Whisky Shop Exclusive

70cl | 46.8% VOL | £955

Rum and raisin chocolate / Cinnamon / Sherry trifle

- Glengoyne was the first distillery to use a wetlands facility to dispose of all of its liquid waste
- This well-aged beauty spent three decades slumbering in hand-picked sherry casks
- An annual release of 5,200 bottles

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THE WHISKY SHOP

St. Patrick's Day

Delicious Irish whiskey that is sure to put a smile on your face this St. Patrick's Day

① The Irishman Single Malt

70cl | 40% VOL | £51

Dark chocolate / Stone fruits / Honey

- A triple distilled small batch expression
- Matured in a combination of bourbon and oloroso sherry casks
- The perfect whiskey for the sweet-toothed

② Dunville's Three Crowns Peated Finish

70cl | 43.5% VOL | £60

Honey / Espresso / Apricot

- Hailing from Belfast's Dunville's distillery
- A marriage of single grain whiskey, ten-year-old single malt, and 15-year-old single malt
- A unique and elegant expression enhanced by the peated finish

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③ The Sexton

70cl | 40% VOL | £30

Baking spices / Citrus oil / Dried fruits

- A bottle that will shine on any shelf
- Matured in oloroso sherry casks from Jerez de la Frontera
- Sherry bomb incoming!

⑤ J.J. Corry 7 Year Old

70cl | 58% VOL | £105

Baked pear / Toffee / Stewed apples

- A cracking exclusive bottling for The Whisky Shop from J.J. Corry, a new whisky bonder
- Matured in a Woodford Reserve bourbon cask before a finish in an Amontillado sherry cask
- Ultra rare with a run of just 132 bottles

④ Bushmills 21 Year Old

70cl | 40% VOL | £212

Spiced fruits / Dates / Toffee

- From what is claimed to be the world's oldest licensed distillery, Bushmills
- Matured in a combination of oloroso sherry and bourbon-seasoned casks
- This whiskey has enjoyed a two-year finish in Madeira wine casks

⑥ Writers' Tears Double Oak

70cl | 46% VOL | £48

Citrus peel / Poached orchard fruits / Cinnamon

- Matured in a unique combination of American oak casks and French oak cognac casks
- A marriage of single malt and single pot still whiskey
- Sweet, spicy, and simply spectacular

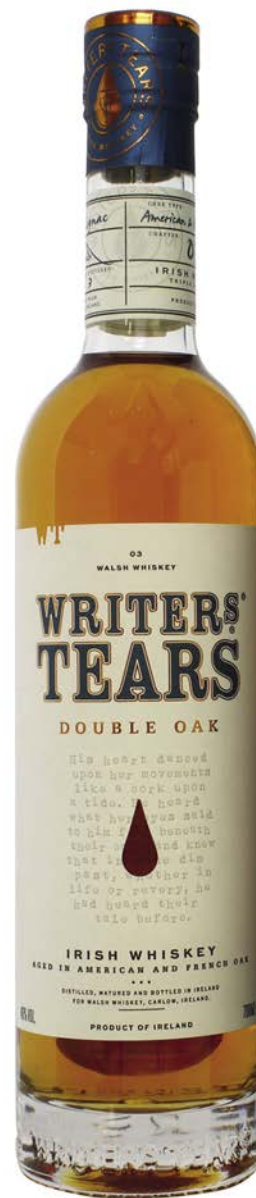
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THE WHISKY SHOP

Passion for Peat

Stock up on these gems if you can't get enough of powerfully peaty drams.

① Glenturret 10 Year Old Peat Smoke 2023

70cl | 50% VOL | £70

Citrus / Smoke / Sea salt

- Elegant, gentle, and smoky
- Produced on the same stills that make the distillery's unpeated spirit
- A great entry-level dram to start exploring smoky whiskies

② Talisker Distillers Edition Double Matured

70cl | 45.8% VOL | £74

Wood spice / Vanilla / Sultanas

- Released as part of Diageo's Distillers Edition series
- Finished in ex-bodega Amoroso cask wood on the shores of the Isle of Skye
- A must-have bottle for fans of whiskies that pack a peaty punch

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③ Ardnamurchan AD/ Sherry Cask Release

70cl | 50% VOL | £65

Dried fruit / Peat / Caramel

- An exciting union of peat and sherry flavours
- Crafted using both peated and unpeated barley
- Matured in a combination of first fill Oloroso and Pedro Ximenez casks

⑤ anCnoc Peated Sherry Cask

70cl | 43% VOL | £48

Toffee / Vanilla / Peat

- A bold and surprising single malt
- Hand-crafted by a small team at Knockdhu distillery
- A limited edition expression that you'd be silly to miss!

④ Benromach Peat Smoke 2014 Sherry Cask Finish

70cl | 46% VOL | £58

Summer berries / Ginger / Peat smoke

- Produced in particularly small batches
- Created using the finest Scottish malted barley with high levels of peat smoke at 57ppm
- The expression was aged in oak casks before a finish in first fill sherry hogsheads

⑥ Penderyn Peated

70cl | 46% VOL | £50

Smoke / Honey / Toasted oak

- Another single cask wonder
- A striking expression with a mighty ABV
- Matured for 16 years in a single first-fill bourbon barrel

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THE WHISKY SHOP

Customer Favourites

Light / Floral

① Glengoyne 12 Year Old

70cl | 43% VOL | £54

Honey / Ginger / Lemon zest

A real smooth sipper from Glengoyne distillery. Matured in hand-selected sherry casks crafted from European and American oak, this multi award-winning expression is sure to keep you coming back for more.



“The nose provides notes of green apples, golden syrup, creaminess, caramel, and citrus fruits. The palate delivers with flavours of toffee apples, baking spices, unripe pears, and white grape tartness. The baking spices linger long into the finish, joined by flavours of oak and dark chocolate. An excellent whisky for the lingering warmth of summer, produced by “the slowest running stills in all of Scotland.”

Kriss, Leeds

② Bunnahabhain 12 Year Old

70cl | 46.3% VOL | £55

Dried fruit / Honey / Chestnut

Bunnahabhain's whiskies are quite distinct from other single malts of the Islay region, in that the majority are produced with unpeated malted barley. Toast the versatility of Islay with this superb 12-year-old expression that showcases Bunnahabhain's 'fruit and nut' signature style.

③ Loch Lomond 14 Year Old

70cl | 46% VOL | £66

Green apple / Grapefruit / Vanilla

A 14-year-old single malt from the Loch Lomond Distillery, made using unpeated spirit. This liquid matured in refill American oak casks and lightly toasted French oak from the Limousin region for up to twelve months.



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④ Balblair 12 Year Old

70cl | 46% VOL | £59

Sultanas / Honey / Apple

Matured in American oak, ex-bourbon, and double-fired American oak casks, this twelve-year-old whisky has an elegant complexity and warmth - the defining expression of Balblair Distillery.

⑤ Balblair 15 Year Old

70cl | 46% VOL | £89

Apple / Dates / Caramel

An older sibling to Balblair 12 Year Old, this whisky perfectly balances unique distillery character with smoothness of age, thanks to a flavour profile of tropical fruits and a texture of melted chocolate. Gorgeous.

⑥ Auchroisk 10 Year Old

70cl | 43% VOL | £62

Orange zest / Cut grass / Roasted nuts

Hailing from the village of the same name, this whisky is a masterclass in fruity Highland flavour perfectly embodying Fettercairn's exotic fruit-driven character. It has been matured in American oak ex-bourbon for its full 12 years in cask. Simply delicious.

⑦ Fettercairn 12 Year Old

70cl | 40% VOL | £61

Nectarine / Ginger / Pear

Hailing from the village of the same name, this whisky is a masterclass in fruity Highland flavour - perfectly embodying Fettercairn's exotic fruit-driven character. It has been matured in American oak ex-bourbon for its full 12 years in cask. Simply delicious.

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THE WHISKY SHOP

Customer Favourites

Rich / Sweet

① Old Pulteney 15 Year Old

70cl | 46% VOL | £84

Honey / Salted caramel / Fruitcake

An incredibly balanced single malt that has spent time in American oak ex-bourbon casks and finished in Spanish oak. Spice and sweetness combine with the refreshing coastal notes expected from this seaside distillery to create a delicious dram.



“Old Pulteney is such a unique malt. I love the coastal character that is so distinctive. The 15 is rich and fruity, with raisins and chocolates. Stewed peaches, clove spice, sea salt rich caramel and creamy peanut butter come through on the palate. Just stunning!”

Monique, Victoria Street



② The Dalmore 15 Year Old

70cl | 40% VOL | £113

Terry's Chocolate Orange / Fruitcake / Sherry

An older sibling to The Dalmore 12 Year Old, this expression has been matured for 15 years in a trio of ex-sherry casks, as well as ex-bourbon barrels. It offers all of the sweetness and spice expected of The Dalmore.

③ Glenrothes 18 Year Old

70cl | 43% VOL | £165

Sweet vanilla / Wood oil / Ginger biscuits

An exceptional 18-year-old Speyside single malt. Released as part of The Glenrothes' Soleo Collection, this expression has been exclusively matured in sherry seasoned oak casks.



**4 anCnoc
12 Year Old**

70cl | 40% VOL | £44

Banana / Butterscotch / Custard

Produced at Knockdu Distillery in the Highlands and matured in a combination of second-fill American oak, ex-bourbon and ex-sherry casks, this is an award-winning expression that should sit proudly on your spirits shelf.

**5 Blair Athol
12 Year Old**

70cl | 43% VOL | £63

Walnut / Cinnamon / Fruitcake

Established in 1798, Blair Athol is one of Scotland's oldest working distilleries and is famed for producing the signature malt for Bell's blend. A delicious dram, this is one of only a few official bottlings ever released from the distillery.

**6 Arran
10 Year Old**

70cl | 46% VOL | £52

Apple / Cinnamon / Digestive biscuits

An award-winning whisky that captures the fresh and unique style of this island distillery. A worthy addition to your whisky cabinet, this expression offers a fantastic introduction to the flavours from Arran.

**7 Benrinnes
15 Year Old**

70cl | 43% VOL | £63

Toffee apple / Sherry / Malted biscuit

This 15-year-old Speyside single malt is partially triple distilled at Benrinnes Distillery, resulting in a sultry expression that packs in plenty of body and character. It is another bottling from Diageo's Flora & Fauna series, highlighting the versatility of distilleries producing liquid for blends.

**8 Benriach
The Twelve**

70cl | 46% VOL | £54

Honey / Maraschino cherries / Cocoa

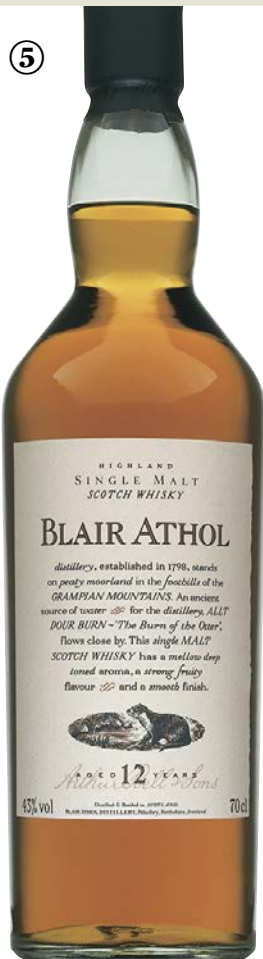
Part of the refreshed core line-up from Benriach, this new recipe brings intensified notes of baked fruits and a rich smoothness, thanks to time spent in a combination of sherry casks, bourbon barrels and Port pipes under the expert care of Master Blender Rachel Barrie.

**9 The Dalmore
12 Year Old**

70cl | 40% VOL | £74

Cocoa / Marmalade / Milk chocolate

This single malt is a Highland triumph: full-bodied, thick and sweet. A popular dram, known for its long and spicy finish, and a beautifully rich expression for its 12 years of age.



THE WHISKY SHOP

Customer Favourites

Rich / Sweet

① Oban Distillers Edition

70cl | 43% VOL | £88 Milk chocolate / Sea salt / Christmas cake

A distillery renowned for its innovation, each expression of Oban Distillers Edition undergoes double maturation in casks that have previously held a fortified wine. This edition has been finished in a Montilla Fino cask - a rare type of finish and a complete treat!



“Oban's best dram and one of my personal favourites. The extra year in sherry casks have given this its caramel sweetness, followed by salty notes from Oban's sea air. The finish is honeyed, with lashings of salted caramel and subtle hints of smoke..”
Johan, Oban



② Glen Scotia Victoriana

70cl | 54.2% VOL | £84 Creme brûlée / Cocoa / Caramel

Inspired by the whiskies produced at Glen Scotia Distillery in the Victorian times, this expression has been relaunched at a slightly higher strength and bottled straight from cask to better reflect how historic expressions of this era would have tasted. Delicious!

③ Glen Scotia Double Cask Rum Finish

70cl | 46% VOL | £57 Toasted coconut / Baking spices / Molasses

A beautiful dram that pays homage to the rum casks that were on sale in Campbeltown in 1815. Matured in ex-bourbon casks before an eight-month finish in ex-Demerara rum barrels, the result is something simply spellbinding.

④ Mortlach 12 Year Old The Wee Witchie

70cl | 43.4% VOL | £19

Toffee / Marmalade / Raisins

Known as 'the Beast of Dufftown', Mortlach's spirit is distilled 2.81 times in a complicated process referred to simply as 'The Way'. Named after a tiny still that distils a portion of Mortlach's whisky, this 12-year-old is a perfect example of the distillery's intense character.

⑤ Mortlach 16 Year Old Distiller's Dram

70cl | 43.4% VOL | £110

Gingerbread / Orange peel / Sultanas

An older sibling to Mortlach 12 Year Old, this dram offers plenty of sweet and sticky Christmas spice thanks to maturation in sherry casks. A combination of first-fill and refill sherry casks gives this 16-year-old a wider range of sherry flavour, from dried fruits to juicy berries.

⑥ The GlenDronach 12 Year Old

70cl | 43% VOL | £61

Marmalade / Sherry / Raisins

An award-winning expression from the distillery famous for its richly sherried offering - this 12-year-old is a firm favourite amongst our customers. Matured in both Pedro Ximénez and Oloroso sherry casks, this expression offers an indulgent portfolio of flavours.

⑦ Benromach 10 Year Old

70cl | 43% VOL | £51

Green apple / Toffee / Black cherry

Produced at the family-owned distillery in Forres and aged for a decade in first-fill bourbon and sherry casks, Benromach's 10-year-old is a dram that is unmistakably Speyside in flavour. It is the proud winner of multiple gold awards.

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THE WHISKY SHOP

Customer Favourites

Smoky

① Bunnahabhain Toiteach A Dha

70cl | 46% VOL | £56

Dried fruit / Peat / Black pepper

Made with Bunnahabhain Moine, Bunnahabhain's peated spirit, this expression is the follow-up to the original Toiteach single malt. It uses a higher proportion of sherry casks than its predecessor. "Toiteach" translates to "smoky two" in Gaelic, so it is no surprise that this dram is bursting with sumptuous, peaty flavours.



"An Islay that generally leans away from peat and smoke, yet when the flames are lit at Bunnahabhain they consistently produce some of the finest peated whiskies available. To those who have never sampled a peated Bunnahabhain, the Toiteach a Dhà is a fabulous introduction, marrying the distillery's famous sherried spice and deep chocolately notes with pepper, sea salt, kippers and elegantly balanced peat."

Tom, Bath

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② Talisker Port Ruighe

70cl | 45.8% VOL | £66

Cocoa / Plum / Spicy pepper

Rich and fruity, Talisker have taken their Isle of Skye malt and finished it in ruby port casks to achieve this delicious dram. 'Port Ruighe' (pronounced 'Portree') is the Gaelic spelling of the once bustling trading port on Skye.

③ Glenturret 10 Year Old Peat Smoked

70cl | 50% VOL | £70

Citrus / Smoke / Sea salt

This exceptional single malt has been crafted in the same stills that the distillery's unpeated spirit runs through. Sweet and smoky, this is a simply delightful expression from an exemplary Highland distillery.

②



③



④ Highland Park 12 Year Old

70cl | 40% VOL | £50

Honey / Cream / Floral smoke

An intriguing expression from Scotland's most northerly distillery. This beautiful dram is the flagship expression of Orkney's Highland Park.

⑤ Highland Park 15 Year Old

70cl | 44% VOL | £106

Crème brûlée / Cinnamon / Honey

Matured predominantly in sherry seasoned European and American oak casks, this is an award-winning whisky that will transport your taste buds straight to the rugged landscapes of Orkney.



THE WHISKY SHOP

Customer Favourites

Smoky

① Caol Ila Distillers Edition

70cl | 43% VOL | £82

Malted biscuit / Peat smoke / Cinnamon

A sweeter expression from the Islay distillery due to time spent in Moscatel casks at the end of its maturation process. The result is a delicious layer of sweetness and dried fruits on top of classic Caol Ila peat smoke.



"Islay can divide the crowd. But with the added richness from ex-moscatel casks, this whisky becomes a smoky salted caramel surprise with classic coastal Caol Ila creaminess. There's much more to this bottle than just smoke."

Phil, Manchester

①



② Laphroaig 10 Year Old Sherry

70cl | 48% VOL | £73

Smoky bacon / Wood polish / Fresh pine

Wonderful peaty fare with a sherried twist. Sweet and smoky drams don't get much better than this. Laphroaig's exceptionally well-balanced fare is an expression that is bound to keep you coming back for more.

②



③ **Ledaig**
10 Year Old

70cl | 46.3% VOL | £55

Gingerbread / Sea salt / Stewed fruit

This beautifully smoky dram is one third of the Ledaig core range. Hailing from the Isle of Mull's only distillery, this an impressively balanced maritime whisky that is sure to keep you coming back for more.

④ **Torabhaig**
Allt Gleann Legacy

70cl | 46% VOL | £65

Sea salt / Peat smoke / Lemon peel

The second release in Torabhaig's Legacy series is an impressively peaty malt. The series consists of small batch bottlings, all drawn from 30 casks or less.

⑤ **Lagavulin**
Distillers Edition
Double Matured

70cl | 43% VOL | £100

Maritime smoke / Peat / Spiced oak

Powerfully smoky and surprisingly sweet, this release of Lagavulin Distillers Edition has been double matured in Pedro Ximénez seasoned American oak casks to create a spectacular flavour profile.



THE WHISKY SHOP

Customer Favourites

International

① Bushmills 16 Year Old

70cl | 40% VOL | £100

Almond / Currant jam / Dark chocolate

Triple distilled at Northern Ireland's Bushmills Distillery, this 16-year-old Irish single malt has been matured in oloroso sherry casks and bourbon-seasoned casks for just over 15 years, before being finished in Port pipes for nine months to impart sweet, jammy flavours.



"A light and ester-ey dram. A nose of caramel and warm fruit skins moves to soft pear drops on the palette, and slightly sharp candied pineapple on the finish"

Emily, Oxford

①



② Widow Jane 10 Year Old Bourbon

70cl | 45.5% VOL | £91

Sandalwood / Tobacco / Madagascan vanilla

A fabulous bourbon from Widow Jane Distillery in Brooklyn. Each bottle of this ten-year-old tippie has been drawn from a single barrel, meaning that no two bottles of this fabulous expression will be exactly the same.

③ Hatozaki 12 Year Old Umeshu Cask Finish

70cl | 46% VOL | £85

Apricot / Pear / Plum

A striking twelve-year-old pure malt whisky from Kaikyo Distillery. Created by combining various small batch single malts, the expression was matured in American oak casks before enjoying a six-month finish in Umeshu casks.

②



③



④ New York Distillers Ragtime Straight Rye

70cl | 45.2% VOL | £57

Liquorice / Cinnamon / Marmalade

An impressive rye from New York Distilling Company. Specially created to be used in cocktails, this expression will be right at home in a delicious Manhattan! A must-have addition to your drinks cabinet.

⑤ Maker's 46

70cl | 47% VOL | £50

Nutmeg / Mulled wine / Caramel

Filled into a barrel partly made of seared French oak staves, this stunning Kentucky bourbon packs plenty of spice and is named after the final recipe chosen by its creators - recipe number 46.

⑥ The Irishman Single Malt

70cl | 43% VOL | £51

Crystallised pineapple / Ripe stone fruits / Honey

A bourbon and oloroso matured dream! This whiskey wonderfully balances sweet, fruity, and woody flavours to create this gorgeous Irish tippie. This small batch expression won Gold at the International Spirits Challenge 2022 - get your hands on one now!

④



⑤



⑥



THE WHISKY SHOP

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OUR STORES



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Queens Head Passage
Paternoster
EC4M 7DZ
0207 329 5117

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64 East Street
BN1 1HQ
01273 327 962

GUILDFORD
25 Chapel Street
GU1 3UL
01483 450 900

BATH
9-10 High Street
BA1 5AQ
01225 423 535

OXFORD
7 Turl St
OX1 3DQ
01865 202 279

NORWICH
3 Swan Lane
NR2 1HZ
01603 618 284

WALES

CARDIFF
36 Royal Arcade
CF10 1AE

NORTH

GATESHEAD
Unit 1/9 Red Mall
Intu Metro Centre
NE11 9YP
0191 460 3777

MANCHESTER
3 Exchange Street
M2 7EE
0161 832 6110

YORK
11 Coppergate Walk
YO1 9NT
0190 4640 300

LEEDS
12-14 County Arcade
Victoria Quarter
LS1 6AZ

STOKE-ON-TRENT
Unit 210 Trentham Gardens
ST4 8AX
01782 644 483

NOTTINGHAM
3 Cheapside
NG1 2HU
0115 958 7080

BIRMINGHAM
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EDINBURGH
Unit U23
Waverley Mall
Waverley Bridge
EH1 1BQ
0131 558 7563

EDINBURGH
28 Victoria St
EH1 2JW
0131 225 4666

EDINBURGH
Multrees Walk
28 St. Andrew Square
EH2 1AF

INVERNESS
17 Bridge Street
IV1 1HG
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THE **W**HISKY SHOP

in focus:

Leeds

12-14 COUNTY ARCADE
 VICTORIA QUARTER
 LS1 6AZ

After a wildly successful start last summer, we catch up with Mark, Kris, and Craig, who front up The Whisky Shop in the Victoria Arcade in Leeds...



How have you enjoyed the first few of months of the store being opened?

Kris: It's been very good. I've really enjoyed it. Having moved from the York store, it's been an exciting new chapter for myself and for The Whisky Shop. It's been going from strength to strength. We've got a really nice bunch of regular customers, and our W Club is up and running. It's everything you could hope for really!

Mark: I managed two wine stores before coming to the Leeds store so, in some ways, I found it quite straight forward. But on the other hand, it's been quite exciting working with a new product, and discovering the depth of knowledge that I've needed to learn. It's been really exciting to take on a new challenge.

Have there been any particular highlights for you so far?

Kris: At the end of January, we had a W Club tasting with BenRiach which was a very big success. We had a good crowd and sold a lot of nice whisky.

Craig: We've had a few really good W Club events. Also, the support from within the community of the arcade that we're in has been fantastic.

Mark: I've really enjoyed the Middleton and Redbreast events that we've hosted. I love taking customers to see our tasting room—it's absolutely stunning!

What are your customers like?

Kris: There are six universities and 60,000 students in Leeds so most of our regular customers are students of some form or another. It's a very lively city.

Craig: It's nice seeing a younger audience really loving whisky. There's a lot of variety in our clientele. Some people come in looking for something to drink that night and others are looking for something to collect.



Have there been any particular popular releases that you've seen a huge demand for?

Kris: The Macallan and Bowmore have certainly been hits. The First Editions series and our Loch Fyne range have also been selling really well, particularly over the festive period.

Craig: We've had some customers that are planning to buy bottles of The Macallan 18 every year for their baby until the baby turns 18 which is amazing.

Glenfiddich has been wildly popular, too.

Do you have any favourite whisky spots in Leeds?

Kris: Definitely The Lazy Lounge and The Brew Society.

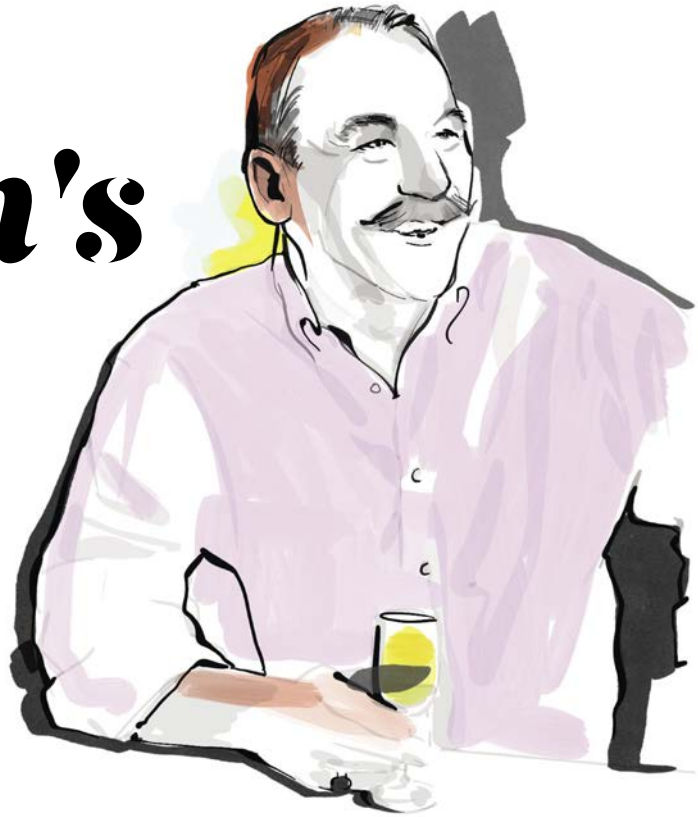
Mark: We had our Christmas party in The Brew Society, it was a great night!

Craig: The Brew Society is a phenomenal place. The guy that manages it is so knowledgeable about whisky and his selection is fantastic. The stuff he gets in are bottles that you wouldn't normally see on a bar and he loves interacting with people who love whisky.



Charlie MacLean's Expert Tasting

Charlie MacLean casts his expert eye over The Macallan 30 Year Old Double Cask.



➤ The Macallan is the leading malt whisky in the world, in terms of value, and the third best-selling whisky by volume. It has achieved the highest prices of any malt at auction and is the darling of collectors and investors. So, it might come as a surprise to readers to learn that the brand only became generally available, and promoted, in 1980.

Prior to this, over 90% of the whisky went for blending—it has long been ranked Top Class by blenders – although small quantities were released each year, officially bottled in Elgin by Gordon & MacPhail or Campbell. Hope and King, usually at ‘over fifteen years old’. As early as 1963, Macallan-Glenlivet’s Chairman remarked that *“the sale of Macallan in bottle is gaining momentum”*, and two years later *“the interest in single malts is undoubtedly increasing and larger sales are expected”*.

In 1966, an Italian agent was appointed and the next year the directors were informed that *“more whisky had been ordered [for the Italian market] than the total amount which went towards the home market”*. The 1972 Annual Report noted that *“sales of cased Macallan had doubled during the year”*,

adding, prophetically, *“a large increase in this type of business was anticipated in light of a fantastic growth in public interest, which would eventually see malt whisky becoming extremely fashionable”*. The directors resolved to set aside stocks of mature whisky, even at the expense of demands from the blenders, and to *“put larger proportions aside for selling in cases”*.

The official bottlings released by the distillery came from first-fill, sherry-seasoned, European oak butts, first mentioned in the minutes of a directors’ meeting in 1963, and although these were at least five times as expensive as American barrels (which had become the norm for the industry post-1945), it was resolved that it was this style of cask that should be ‘set aside’ for bottling as single malt.

Backed by a witty £25,000 advertising campaign, devised by a London advertising agency guided by Macallan’s Chairman, Allan Shiach (who was himself a successful Hollywood scriptwriter)—*“mostly spent on acquiring space next to The Times crossword”*.

By 1984, The Macallan was the third most popular malt in Scotland and fifth in

the world – described by the leading whisky writer of the day, the late Michael Jackson, as *“the Rolls Royce of malts”*. The company’s Marketing Director, Hugh Mitcalfe—who had been appointed in 1978, when the entire advertising budget was £50!—told me that *“the success could be attributed to the company’s consistent policy of maturing their whisky in sherry casks”*.

Post-millennium, Macallan began to explore the use of sherry-seasoned American oak casks, introducing the Fine Oak range of eight whiskies in 2004, to run in parallel with the ‘traditional’ European oak matured malts. This evolved into the Double Cask Collection of four malts, of which this 30-year-old is the pinnacle. The company states on its website:

“Worthy of their name, our Exceptional Oak Casks are the single greatest contributor to the outstanding quality and distinctive aromas, flavours and natural colours of The Macallan. The Macallan Double Cask collection has a prominent, unmistakable sweetness which is attributed to the higher proportion of American sherry seasoned oak casks used for maturation”.



The Macallan 30 Year Old Double Cask

70cl	43% VOL
30 Year Old	£4,300
Highland single malt	

Amber in colour, with no beading at this strength. The aroma is rich and mellow, with dried fruit and kitchen spice top notes (allspice, nutmeg, powdered ginger, white pepper) from European oak combined with vanilla and oak from the American oak casks. The taste is sweet, with vanilla toffee in mid-palate, and the finish spicy (white pepper).

Katie Puckrik's Neat Takes



Sensory sensation Katie Puckrik welcomes you to her brand-new column for a sipping expedition in every issue of Whiskeria. In the spirit of St. Patrick's Day, Katie samples five top-drawer Irish expressions —perfect for celebrations this March 17th!

J.J. Corry 7 Year Old Bonders Edition

The Whisky Shop Exclusive

70cl 58% VOL

7 Year Old £105

Irish single malt whiskey

A woolly blanket of whiskey, densely knit with loose hairs coated in the oils of the once-upon-a-time animal from which it was woven. Feral and wily, stern with a smile. Do I smell petrol? No, you drunken fool, that's raisins and pears. More please.



Waterford Cuvée

70cl 50% VOL

NAS £79

Irish single malt whisky

Waterford Cuvée is the whiskey equivalent of a cult: an organisation formed of highly disparate identities hammered into one outwardly cohesive unit that upon closer inspection is deeply weird. This blend of 25 single-farm whiskies is a power struggle between citrus and savoury, with bread in charge of the whole shebang.

"This old timer starts off lean-ish and clean-ish before charming the tongue with apples and earth, getting spicier as it loosens your stays. An unexpected rogue."



Green Spot

70cl 40% VOL

NAS £47

Irish single pot still whiskey

Irish whiskey was the OG aqua vitae, and Dublin native Green Spot has managed to remain in continuous production for over 100 years. This old timer starts off lean-ish and clean-ish before charming the tongue with apples and earth, getting spicier as it loosens your stays. An unexpected rogue.

Bushmills 2000 Ruby Port Cask

The Causeway Collection

70cl 54.1% VOL

NAS £277

Irish single malt whiskey

This whiskey is a luxury retreat, complete with toffee and incense and flowers in my room, box-fresh towelling robes, a stocked-to-order petting zoo, and an enjoyably impertinent massage in the spa by someone I'm pretty sure is a medical doctor, so it's "physical therapy". Out of my league, but I aspire to it.

Redbreast 15 Year Old

70cl 46% VOL

15 Year Old £76

Irish single pot still whiskey

This single pot still whiskey ain't lah-dee-dah-ing around with throat-clearing how-do-you-do static. Spicy, peppery and leathery, Redbreast 15 Year Old is a Viking raid on your niminy-piminy, cross-stitch sampler homestead. It was time you toughened up, anyway.

THE 42



THE GLENROTHES

Excellence can't be rushed. Our spirit matures slowly. As years pass, the colours and landscape that surround us change, as does our whisky. It matures slowly in oak casks within our highland home; until we select the perfect moment to bottle it from just four casks. The result is a colourful masterpiece. Inspired by our home, exclusively for those who value the wait.

theglenrothes.com

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be drinkaware.co.uk